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Souvenir New Town Eagles
Poster Inside



This Week's Line Up

All the Premier
League Action from
Around Australia

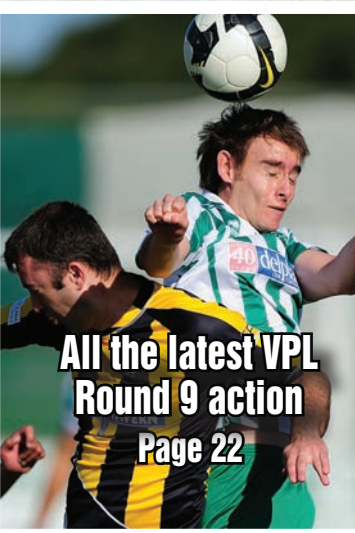
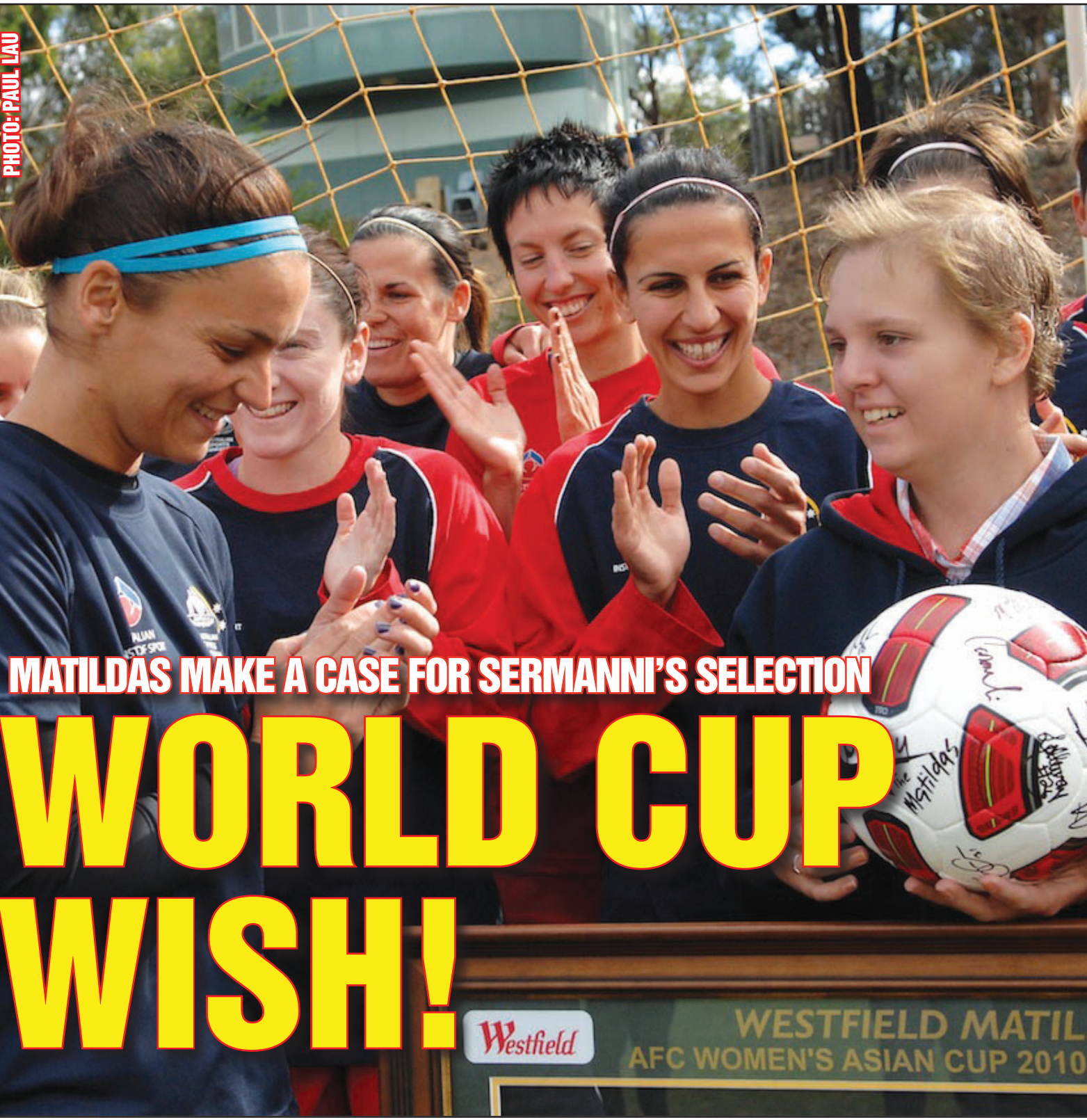


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MATILDAS MAKE A CASE FOR SERMANI'S SELECTION

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THE 2009 Jacobs Report offering a strategic review of the Victorian Premier League has been consigned to the dustbin of history.

Former Cricket Victoria CEO Ken Jacobs was commissioned to undergo a comprehensive study of the VPL and he interviewed most participating clubs of the time.

Jacobs also interviewed State One clubs and a handful of clubs from lower leagues but once his report was submitted it never saw the light of day as the then Tony Dunkerley-led board decided not to release it into the public domain.

This decision caused great angst among the Victorian football community many of whom accused the board of lacking transparency and accountability.

To this day, no-one outside the administration of the time knows how much money was spent on a report that appeared to simply gather dust among FFV archives.

This is one of the more damning legacies of the previous era but one which new Football Federation Victoria president Nick Monteleone will not revisit.

“Releasing the Jacobs Report really isn’t an issue now with the upcoming National Competition Review,” said Monteleone when we spoke last week.

The FFA-inspired review committee is chaired by Kimon Talia-doros and FFV is represented by CEO Mark Rendell.

The committee is looking closely at the current member federation competition structures from the top State (Premier) League competition to under-12 level and will formulate proposals of preferred models from the various federations covering competition, development and financial aspects with the aim of seeking the best option for a second-tier national competition (underpinning the Hyundai A-League).

FFA will hold talks with the boards of all member federations after Easter and Monteleone was enthusiastic about the outcome of the review.

“FFA CEO Ben Buckley will make a presentation to the (FFV) board, which I think is a first in the time I’ve been there (four years),” said Monteleone.

“This is a wonderful opportunity to get clarity into our competi-



Jackson Irvine is about to come on as a sub in Celtic's 3-0 Scottish Youth Cup semi-final success over Livingston.

tion structure. I think there is a lack of clarity as to where Premier Leagues sit in terms of the overall game in Australia.”

It is expected that the review’s recommendations will soon be put before the FFV board and the board in turn will submit its response to FFA.

It will be interesting to see how much, if at all, the review visits the issue of the prevalence of mono-ethnic clubs at an elite level.

That issue figured prominently in the game-changing Crawford Report which spawned the de-ethnicised and sanitised A-League competition now in place.

Wright v MacLaren in final? MOSS Lane, home of Altrincham FC in Cheshire, may play a part in creating a slice of Australian football history on Monday, 5 May at 7pm.

That’s the venue for the Lancashire Senior Cup semi between the reserve teams of Man U and Blackburn Rovers.

Readers of this column will be

well aware of the recent exploits of teenage Sunbury striker Jamie MacLaren and he is expected to line-up for Rovers in this big clash.

Given his scoring record against United he’ll no doubt go into the contest brimful of confidence. And you can bet that an interested observer will be Preston North End defender Bailey Wright.

The Langwarrin 18-year-old captained Preston’s reserves to their semi-final cup win over Liverpool late last month.

With scores deadlocked at 1-1 and just minutes away from a penalty shootout, Wright’s defensive goal-line header saved the day and two spot-kick saves by keeper Andreas Arestidou sent Preston into the final.

“I didn’t know too much about it (the header),” Wright told PNE’s website. “I saw their man sliding in and I just threw my head at it and I got a bit of luck and that’s what you need sometimes.

“I’m very proud (to have been captain), especially to beat Liverpool. We went 1-0 up and even when they pulled it back to 1-1

we were playing just as well as they were, sometimes a lot better than them.”

The news further north is just as bright with former Frankston Pines teen Jackson Irvine scoring his first goal for Celtic’s under-19s in a 3-2 league win against Hamilton a fortnight back.

Last week Irvine played a full game as the Hoops scored a significant 3-0 win over arch rivals Rangers at Murray Park. Those three points took Irvine’s side into second spot in the league just one point behind Hearts but with two games in hand.

The 17-year-old midfielder is on track to step out for holders Celtic onto the hallowed turf of Hampden Park at 7.45pm on Wednesday, 27 April in the Scottish Youth Cup final against Rangers.

Celtic reached the final after beating Livingston 3-0 with Irvine coming off the bench in the second half.

But back to young MacLaren for a moment. He no longer is off FFA’s radar. Quite the opposite in fact.

FFA’s new scout in the UK, ex-North Queensland Fury assistant coach Stuart McLaren (no relation), has been to Blackburn and spoken to the teenager and even travelled to Cobham in Surrey to watch the youngster in action in a recent reserves fixture against Chelsea.

Not a bad effort by the FFA’s man seeing that he’s based in

Airdrie in Scotland.

It indicates that young MacLaren is being taken seriously and at least watched closely as the July kick-off to the finals of the FIFA Under-20 World Cup draws ever closer.

VPL axeman keeps swinging
KRUNI Razov, Andy O’Dell, Ivan Duzel ... is there no end in sight to the spate of coaching sackings that has recently plagued the VPL?

Razov’s head was the first on the block in this round of loppings. But his replacement at St Albans Dinamo, Huss Skenderovic, lasted less than 24 hours because some people objected to his religion. Yep, as hard as it is to believe we now find that sectarianism is alive and well in at least one dark corner of Victorian football.

O’Dell was next to go. He claims that he was given the backing of a prominent Bentleigh Greens administrator only to be sacked the following week with the team still holding a top-six position as it had been for most of the season.

Next head on the chopping block was that of Melbourne Knights coach Duzel. He was given the bad news prior to taking the senior squad for training last Monday.

“I didn’t accept it at first but after we talked for half an hour I accepted it and the next day

I went to the players and told them,” said Duzel.

“It was very embarrassing for me to be treated like this. Embarrassing for me but also embarrassing for the club because I didn’t think it was done in a professional way.

“The decision (to sack me) was too quick. I have a young team that plays an attacking style of game and you need time to develop young players. I told the club that they can’t rush these things but there were too many mouths around the club saying too many things.”

Duzel is a former St Albans star but when we spoke last Friday the Churchill Reserve outfit had not contacted him about their senior coaching position. However, Duzel made it clear that he would knock them back if they did.

“I don’t want to go from stress to more stress,” he said. “I will make sure that the next club I pick up will be a well organised club.

“I don’t know what these Premier League clubs are doing with coaches. They play ping-pong with us.

“I believe there should be rules that make these clubs give coaches time to develop players. I also believe that there should be some sort of compensation for coaches that are sacked like this.”

Now there’s a novel idea. Treating coaches as if they are an integral part of our football workplace. Nah, it’ll never catch on.



Ivan Duzel leaves the field with Jeff Olver after the Melbourne Knights succumbed to Heidelberg United 3-1 last week. Photo: DANIEL FLIS

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Win yourself a Goal! Weekly subscription by spotting yourself in the crowd!

We'll be selecting a lucky winner each week, and all you need to do to claim your prize is send us a message on our GW Facebook page - it's that easy!

Brisbane Roar's record breaking championship winning A-League coach Ange Postecoglou was a recent guest at Nunawading City FC, and demonstrated his coaching prowess by taking the group through their paces.

GW photographer Peter Kakalias was on hand to capture the event and we've circled a lucky youngster whose in line to win a GW prize. If that's you in circled in the picture above, send us a message on our Facebook page so you can claim your prize.

You've got until noon this Friday to claim your prize. Good luck!
Last week's winner was Dayna Kimball of Reservoir.

A Penny For Your Thoughts...



Tell us what you think is going through White Eagles' Adam Ewin's mind as he soars over Dandenong Thunder's Matt Theodore, and be in the running for a GW prize. Post you answer on our Facebook page and we'll feature the best entry in the next edition of GW.

GW Front Cover Comp

Goal! Weekly is just going crazy with reader competitions this week!

All you have to do is post a picture of yourself with a front cover of a recent Goal! Weekly at a monumental place of interest or landmark on our Facebook page and you can be in the running to win a great prize. We'll even publish the best ones in the mag. Eiffel Tower? Statue of Liberty? Wembley? Leave the gnome at home and take a GW with you!

We'll let the readers decide who the winner is by a democratic vote with the most likes

In the meantime get cracking so you could win yourself a weekly prize!



Aussies Abroad

By Damian Davies

With so many Aussies playing football abroad, and now a growing appetite to introduce these players to the national set-up via training camps and squads, this is an appropriate time to learn more. In the first of our interviews with young Australians playing football overseas, we welcome Pasquale Polistina. The twenty-two year midfielder was born in Sydney, and now finds himself as one of the few Aussies currently playing in Wales.

Pasquale, please tell us about your early playing days in Australia. I started out as a 12 year old in the youth set-up at Northern Spirit, also spending time at Bankstown City and Blacktown City, where I made my senior debut, before being invited to train with an Eccellenza team in Italy. After returned to train with the Newcastle Jets, I ended up transferring up to Queensland where I joined Redland City Devils. During my time there, I also had the opportunity to train with the Central Coast Mariners.

And how did you end up transferring overseas? In 2009, I joined Auckland City in the New Zealand Football Championship. As league winners, they played in the OFC League and then the FIFA Club World Cup. After that stint I moved to Wales, joining a club called Rhyl FC.

How has this season gone both at a club and personal level? I played a few games in the seniors and reserves early in the season before going out on loan to another Welsh team, Rhydymwyn FC, also in the second division. While there I played 10 games with 5 assists and scoring 2. I have now returned to Rhyl and signed for another season. The club is sitting on top of the league with 4 games to go so looking good for promotion so hopefully the next few weeks go well.

What representative recognition have you had in the past? And your fondest memories? I was selected to represent NSW in the Australian schoolboys tournament as a 17 year old. Being part of the World Cup squad

that represented Auckland City at the FIFA World Cup in U.A.E during 2009 and the experience that came with that.

Who have been the more influential football people during your career? Nick Tarquino always got the best out of me and gave me the opportunity to come overseas. Also former Soccerroo, Marshall Soper who has taught me a lot of his tricky skills and techniques.

Who has been your most memorable team mate and why? New Zealand centre back Ivan Vicelich, who played all three games at the 2010 World Cup. He was a role model to all us young players while at Auckland City.

Along the same lines, your most treasured football memories? Again, the Club World Cup experience at Auckland City, and this year's FA Welsh Cup run (knocked out in quarters)

And finally, please tell us your ambitions both at club and national level.

My aim is to be part some way in the Australian set-up for the Olympics. Like every player, my aim is to represent my country and I think with my skills I can add something different to the team. Club wise, hopefully to play anywhere in Europe where it is a decent and well structured league.

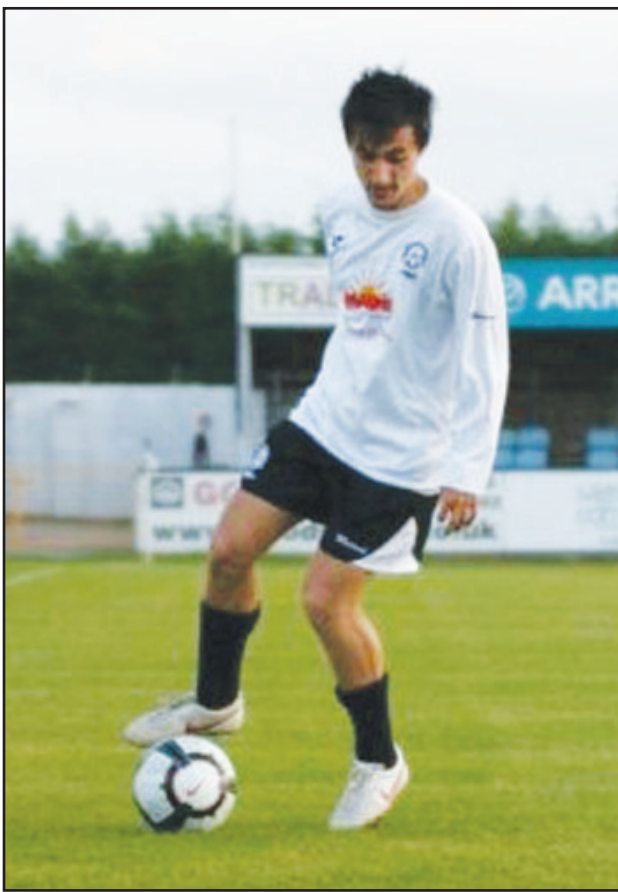
Thanks for your time and best wishes for the future!!

Pasquale Polistina Fact File
Date of birth: 18 January 1989
Age: 22
Place of birth: Sydney, Australia
Height: 1.80 m (5 ft 11 in)
Position: Right Winger
Current club: Rhyl FC (Wales)

Youth career
2001–2004 Northern Spirit FC
2005 Bankstown City Lions
2006–2007 Blacktown City

Senior career
2008 West Sydney Berries
2008–2010 Redlands United
2010 Inter Lions
2010– Rhyl FC

Meet Pasquale Polistina



Pasquale Polistina in action for Rhyl FC in a friendly against Manchetser City earlier this season.



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4th Round Details

Last week's 3rd Round
Mirabella Cup Results:
Moreland City (S2) 2-0
Melbourne Tornado (P1)
Doncaster Rovers (S2) 2-1
Ashburton (P2)
Heidelberg Starts (P3) 2-0
La Trobe Uni (S3)
Mornington (S3) 1-2
Dandenong City (S2)
Epping City (P2) 1-3
Banyule City (S2)

Mirabella Cup 3rd Round
Remaining Fixtures:
Mon 18 Apr 7:30pm Yarraville
Glory (S3) v Old Melburnians
(P1) – DISC Pitch 1
Tue 19 Apr 7:00pm Corio (P1) v
Ballarat Red Devils (S2) – Mors-
head Park
Wed 20 Apr 7:30pm Keilor Park
(S3) v Westgate (S2) – Ardeer
Reserve
Thu 21 Apr 7:30pm South Yarra
(P1) v Middle Park FC (P3) –
DISC Pitch 1

Mirabella Cup 4th Round Draw:
Doncaster Rovers (S2) v
FC Bulleen Lions (S1)
Northcote City (VPL) v
Box Hill United (S2)
Hume City (VPL) v
Hume United (S3)
Moreland City (S2) v
Fawkner Blues (S1)
Langwarrin (S1) v
Dandenong City (S2)
Dandenong Thunder (VPL) v
South Springvale (S2)
Bayside Argonauts (P2) v
Bentleigh Greens (VPL)
Kingston City (S3) v
Southern Stars (S1)
Geelong (S2) v
St Albans Saints (VPL)
Altona Magic (S1) v
North Sunshine Eagles (P1)
Cobram Victory (R) v
Whittlesea Zebras (S1)
FC Clifton Hill (S2) v
Twin City Wanderers (R)
Falcons 2000 (R) v
Springvale White Eagles (VPL)
Malvern City (S2) v Fortuna 60 (R)
Strathdale (R) v
Sunshine George Cross (S1)
Green Gully Cavaliers (VPL) v
Mildura United (R)
Pascoe Vale (S1) v
Mooroolbark (P1)
Waverly Wanderers (S3) v
Oakleigh Cannons (VPL)
Heidelberg Stars (P3) v
Preston Lions (S1)
Heidelberg United (VPL) v
Banyule City (S2)
South Melbourne (VPL) v
Old Melbournians (P1) or
Yarraville (S2)
Middle Park (P3) or South Yarra
(P1) v Port Melbourne (S1)
Ballarat Red Devils (S2) or Corio
(P1) v North Geelong (S1)
Melbourne Knights (VPL) v
Keilor Park (S3) or Westgate (S2)

Mirabella Cup enters 4th Round

By Robert Di Fabio

The third round of the Mirabella Cup has ventured into the second week of proceeding with a further five games taking place as mid-week fixtures last week.

The remaining four matches will be played this week. Following the conclusion of the round, the cup will enter the fourth round (second stage of the competition) where the two zonale winners with be drawn against the seeded VPL and State League One outfits. Additionally, on Thursday night the fourth round draw took place at FFV headquarters. The clubs with incomplete third round matches were also drawn, with a pre-mature outlook into which team they may face barring they progress to the next round.

Review of last week's Round 3 fixtures:

We start off proceedings in the North-West of Melbourne where Moreland City (State 2) hosted the in-form Melbourne Tornado (Prov 2) in an early week Monday night kick-off at DISC. Tornado felt the pressure early on by their higher league opposition when Moreland City's Oner Simsek hit the back of the net in the 9th minute. With a vast difference on the Victorian pyramid, Tornado did well to remain competitive for long periods of the game. However, City exemplified their superiority with Simsek claiming a double in the remaining minutes. Moreland City advance to the second stage with a comprehensive 2-0 victory.

Venturing out to the North-Eastern region, highly fancied Doncaster Rovers (State 2) welcomed Ashburton (Prov 2) to their home turf at Anderson Park. The Rovers were dealt with an immense shock as they entered the half-time interval trailing 1-0 to an outfit ranked three divisions below. The beauty of cup football was being realised for Ashburton as they were only 45 minutes away from realising their dream. However, a sturdy wake up call was imminent in the second period as Doncaster Rovers illustrated their state league status with a display of professionalism and authority. The Rovers eventually overcame their Provisional League

counter-parts scoring two goals to triumph 2-1 in a closer than expected encounter. Ashburton can leave the competition in high spirits and will hope to replicate their form over to the league.

Drifting across to the Northern region the essence and beauty of cup football has been evident by the amazing pilgrimage set upon by the Heidelberg Stars (Prov 3). The Stars played host to La Trobe University (State 3) at DISC in what would be an unforgettable night of drama and celebration for the competing outfits. With an immense three divisions separating the two teams, the Stars pulled of the upset of the competition by defeating the Uni boys 2-0. A goal by Nasir Yussuf in the opening interval, followed by Abdikhadar Elmi 85th minute strike was enough to gain entry into the 4th round. The Stars will have to be at their best to remain competitive against State League One outfit Preston Lions, however with an abundance of confidence and optimism running through the club; anything is possible in cup football.

The Southern Zone witnessed Dandenong City (State 2) travel away to Mornington (State 3) at Monterey Reserve. City had the better of their opposition leading at the half time interval 2-0. The scoreline was an accurate reflection of their ranking within Victorian football. Mornington were able to pull a goal back after the break, although Dandenong City proved to be a class above triumphing 2-1 at the final whistle.

The Final fixture of the week took place in the Northern zone where Epping City (Prov 2) attempted to replicate their previous cup form against Banyule City (State 2), whom has thus far struggled for form losing their opening two league fixtures. Nevertheless the game got off to a flying start with Bayule opening their account in the initial ten minutes. However, Epping responded pegging a goal back just before the half time interval. At the break the scores read 1-1. With three divisions unravelling the two outfits, Epping were playing well to stay in the contest. However, Banyule inflicted their superiority by scoring mid-way through the second period and ultimately killing

the game with a well placed strike in the final few minutes. It was an admirable effort from Epping City who should be proud of their achievements throughout the competition. Meanwhile, Banyule City will have the daunting task of facing Heidelberg United (VPL) in the fourth round.

Remaining Round 3 Fixtures

There are still four fixtures yet to be played in the third round of the Mirabella Cup. These matches will take place during the week and will ultimately bring to a close the round proceedings.

Round 4 Draw

Stage two of the competition represents an invigorating period for many within the Victorian football fraternity. The much awaited introduction of the seeded Alanic Premier League and State League One clubs will vibrantly make their debuts in the innovative Mirabella Cup competition. The seeded outfits have been drawn against the 24 zonale winners (two from each zone) from the preliminary rounds of the tournament. Round four will commence on April 23 and run through to May 5.

Many fixtures will represent a true test of character, mental strength and professionalism for an abundance of clubs participating. With the Mirabella Cup fixtures taking place as mid-week games, clubs will need to find the right balance within their playing ranks given they will face the prospect of two games within three or four days.

There are some appetizing contests on display. The Hume derby will obtain much excitement within the local community. Hume United (State 3) will have the overwhelming task of travelling to Hume City's (VPL) home turf in what is anticipated to be an animated fixture. Three divisions separate the pair, although local derbies are always capable of the odd surprise.

The feel-good story of the competition thus far is Heidelberg Star's rise to supremacy. The newly promoted outfit plying their trade in Provisional League Three fended off La Trobe University (State 3) by winning 2-0 in the third round



and are currently living the fairytale of hosting former NSL representatives Preston Lions (State 1). An enormous five divisions divide the two clubs in a contest where the Lions are expected to win comfortably. The Stars have surprised many throughout the cup, can they duplicate another bombshell? Another local derby between Doncaster Rovers (State 2) and FC Bullen Lions (State 1) is building up to be a thrilling encounter. With the close proximity of the two outfits and similar vein in the division ranking, both clubs will rate their chances of advancing further in the cup.

Two Regional outfits will be living in wonderland when they face the elite in Victorian football. Gippsland Soccer League's Falcons 2000 have gained the privilege of hosting Springvale White Eagles (VPL), meanwhile Mildura United will have the boisterous road trip of travelling the turf of defending VPL champions, Green Gully Cavaliers.

The solitary Provisional League vs VPL encounter will be brought into fruition when Bayside Argonauts (P2) grace the honour of welcoming Bentleigh Greens (VPL) to their home pitch. The Argonauts will have a tough battle on their hands; however playing against a VPL team will be a great experience for all involved.

The fourth round of the Mirabella Cup will see a guaranteed 12 VPL, 23 State League, two Provisional League and three regional outfits (results may vary depending on the remaining third round fixtures) commence proceeding at the second stage of the competition. Many of the higher ranked clubs will be expected to progress to the fifth round. Although cup football represents much uncertainty, tension, exhilaration and its fair share of upsets as we've witnessed thus far in this year's competition. Brace yourself for another stimulating round of cup football.

SHORT PASSES

WA Coaching Legend Joins Glory
Perth Glory has appointed Western Australia coaching legend Graham Normanton to the role of WA Recruitment Manager. Normanton, WA's most successful senior coach will report directly to Perth Glory Coach Ian Ferguson. "I'm looking forward to the role and feel I have something to offer." Normanton said. "I think we have more talent in the WA State Premier League than we give it credit for" The newly created position will see Normanton concentrate on identifying players from the All Flags State Premier League.

Mariners make double signing
The Central Coast Mariners have today signed attacking midfielder Adriano Pellegrino from Perth Glory and versatile former North Queensland Fury player Brad McDonald. The pair have put pen to paper on deals that will see them join the Hyundai A-League 2011 Grand Finalists for next season, plus the group stage of the AFC Champions League 2012. Pellegrino has also committed to the club for the Hyundai A-League 2012/13 season.

Tim Cahill talks about his future 9:30pm Monday on SBS TWO
Socceroos star Tim Cahill says he will sit out Australia's next two international matches in June, in an exclusive interview airing Monday night on The World Game on SBS. Speaking to The World Game reporter Davide Corran in England, Cahill opened up about the recent foot injury that has plagued him since the Asian Cup in January. "From the time I got back, and even a bit during the Asian Cup, I've been playing with a tear in my foot," said Cahill. "To find it, it wasn't the best thing to see but overall I've kept in top shape and I feel like I'm buzzing inside and I feel fit. But when you've got such a small injury on your foot like a tear, anything you do, such as walking, can be very painful. So getting back today it's finally pain free but it doesn't mean the problem's gone away because the tear will always be there for a bit now." It is this injury that Cahill says will force him out of the upcoming international friendlies in June, however the Socceroos star still expressed his desire to take to the pitch in the 2014 FIFA World Cup in Brazil. "If I'm fit, then I'm there. End of story. I never say no for my country. It's one of those questions that every year I get asked and at every Australian game, every competition," said Cahill. "It's simple – if I'm fit, I'm there. If I get selected, then I'm there. Hopefully by that time, there'll be some great youngsters that are pushing us out of the team and going on and doing greater things but I'm pretty sure that if selected I'll 100 per cent be there."

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Dreams Are Free for Matildas & Kasey



Special Matildas guest Kasey is presented with her gifts from the World Cup bound squad.

The Westfield Matildas entered their fourth and final training camp over the weekend at the Australian Institute of Sport for the upcoming FIFA Women's World Cup in Germany from June 27 to July 17.

Making this camp a little more special was the presence of 15-year-old Kasey from Miriam Vale in Queensland who, through Make A Wish Australia, will have her dream of meeting and training with the Westfield Matildas come true.

A mad soccer fan, Kasey plays in her local football team in her small Queensland town and has dreamed of becoming a Westfield Matilda.

Kasey was met at the airport by Westfield Matilda's Head Coach Tom Sermanni on Wednesday afternoon to start her full Westfield Matildas experience and is staying at the Australian Institute of Sport for the four day camp.

She took part in the training camp with the team and was accompanied on her adventure by her mum and dad for this once in a lifetime trip.

Kasey met the full Westfield Matildas squad at their training session at 9am and joined in for the start of the session, culminating with a presentation of a very special memento of her trip after training.

Kasey has myelodysplastic syndrome.

For more information about Make-A-Wish® Australia, visit www.makeawish.org.au



Emily Van Egmond limbers up with some stretches before the serious business begins.



Brisbane Roar's Karla Reuter signs away for the autograph hunters.



Sally Shipard takes a break amidst a wall of inspiration behind her.



Perth Glory's Collette McCallum cuts a dashing figure with the ball.



With clipboard in hand Matildas coach Tom Sermanni addresses the squad.



Sally Shipard and Melissa Barbieri put in the hard yards.



Players prepare for a scrimmage of high stakes.



The goalkeepers receive some words of wisdom.



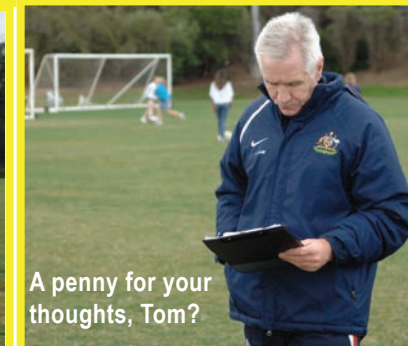
Lydia Williams (on bench), Ellie Brush (standing) and Servet Uzunlar (sitting).



The coaching staff keep a watchful eye on the players.



The squad is put through their paces.



A penny for your thoughts, Tom?

Viva Espana



Pepe Lopez

The sight of 80,000 supporters leaping in unison for a weak penalty claim was enough to sway Referee Cesar Muniz Fernandez into calling a penalty kick for Real Madrid in the dying minutes of the first of four El Casico encounters in just 3 weeks.

The claim came from a challenge by Barcelona's Dani Alves on Real Madrid's Marcello, but television replays showed that two Brazilians had never made contact and Alves' foot lawfully only made came in contact with the ball. Ronaldo equalised from the spotkick in 82nd minute, setting up a frantic finish at the Santiago Bernabeu.

Barca Coach Pep Guardiola surprised many with his selection of defender Carles Puyol, for his first match in nearly 6 months.

However many questioning this decision, would not have been surprised to see Puyol stretchered off the field in the 58th minute for what appeared to be a re-occurrence of the same injury that has seen Puyol miss most of the current season.

Equally as surprising, Real Madrid Coach Jose Mourinho left attacking stars Kaka, Ozil, Higuain and Adebayor on the sidelines, and no hint was given to this selection decision, as Mourinho sat in silence at the pre-match press conference, prompting a walk-out of the media.

Indeed it was a defensive Real Madrid display, Barcelona enjoyed around 70 percent of the play and indeed Lionel Messi was the only major play-maker in the match.

Balkan Wrap



Alex Milic

Serbia
Vojvodina did the double against league leaders Partizan as they took all three points in Belgrade against the defending champions in the derby match of round 22.

Former Red Star striker Omaru scored the winner for Vojvodina in the 77th minute to seal an excellent win for the 'red and whites' from Novi Sad. The win has made things very interesting with a dead set title race where three teams are in the running for the Serbian title. Partizan was no match for the excellent Vojvodina side which was once more well organised and tactically superior against the self proclaimed biggest club in the region.

Partizan like always complained and found excuses for the loss and poor performance. Last week they were 1:0 down and equalised through a penalty kick that shouldn't have been and then referee Mazic added 5 minutes of stoppage time even though 3 minutes would have been to much with Tomic scoring with practically the last kick of the game to give the 'black and whites' three undeserved points. The match aroused and caused a big stir in Serbian football during the last seven days with Serbian football legend Savo Milosevic accusing the Serbian FA and the nations biggest clubs Red Star and Partizan of match fixing. His accusations have prompted Serbian FA president Tomislav Karadzic to file an

Home Ground Advantage Saves Point For Real



Barcelona remain eight points clear of Real Madrid in La Liga as the two rivals draw 1-1 in the first of four games they will play in just over two weeks.

Whilst Messi and sometimes David Villa looked like scoring in open play for the majority of the match, Real Madrid's only Real chances came from freekicks just outside the Barcelona penalty area. Ronaldo fired the first shot on goal from a 25 yard freekick, the ball dipped over the wall and bounced just in front of Barca keeper Valdes. Messi broke through the Madrid defense but could not chip the ball over Real keeper Casillas ten minutes later. In the 25 minute, David Villa was brought down by Iker Casillas, in what was a fair penalty claim, but it was controversially

not given by Referee Cesar Muniz Fernandez.

In the 49th minute Ronaldo nearly put Madrid into the lead with a 30 yard freekick that hit the bottom of the left Barca goalpost. That particular incident sparked the visitors to life, and within a few minutes Messi put through Villa, who was tackled by way of a headlock by Real defender Raul Albiol. Albiol received his marching orders, Messi scored the spotkick and Albiol will now miss the Copa Del Rey Final on Thursday morning Australian time.

So Real Madrid ended a run of 5

successive El Clasico defeats with a late penalty, and potentially look set to surprise Barcelona with an attacking line-up at some stage during the next three El Casico encounters over the next 3 weeks.

**Real Madrid 1
Barcelona 1**
Goals: Cristiano Ronaldo '82 min pen (Real Madrid), Lionel Messi '53 min pen (Barcelona)

Real Madrid:
Iker Casillas, Ricardo Carvalho, Raul Albiol, Marcelo, Sergio Ramos, Pepe, Sami Khedira, Xabi

La Liga			
	P	GD	Pts
1 Barcelona	32	69	85
2 Real Madrid	32	50	77
3 Valencia	32	19	63
4 Villarreal	31	12	54
5 Sevilla	32	1	46
6 Athletic Bilbao	31	2	45
7 Atletico Madrid	31	7	45
8 Espanyol	31	-5	44
9 Mallorca	32	-12	39
10 Levante	31	-7	39
11 Sporting Gijon	31	-6	38
12 Getafe	32	-8	37
13 Racing	31	-14	37
14 Real Sociedad	31	-14	35
15 Osasuna	31	-1	35
16 Deportivo	31	-15	35
17 Malaga	32	-20	33
18 Real Zaragoza	31	-13	33
19 Hercules	31	-20	30
20 Almeria	32	-25	26
Almeria 0-3 Valencia			
Getafe 1-0 Sevilla			
Malaga 3-0 Mallorca			
Real Madrid 1-1 Barcelona			

Alonso, Angel Di Maria, Karim Benzema, Cristiano Ronaldo
Subs: Emmanuel Adebayor, Kaka, Alvaro Arbeloa, Gonzalo Higuain, Ezequiel Garay, Mesut Ozil, Antonio Adan

Barcelona:
Victor Valdes, Gerard Pique, Carles Puyol, Dani Alves, Sergio Busquets, Adriano, Andres Iniesta, Xavi, David Villa, Lionel Messi, Pedro.

Subs: Seydou Keita, Jose Manuel Pinto, Gabriel Milito, Ibrahim Afellay, Maxwell, Thiago, Fontas

Next Match: Copa Del Rey Final, Barcelona v Real Madrid, Live on SBS:
Thursday April 21 05:15am.



Vojvodina squeezes past Partizan in the derby match in Belgrade on the weekend.

Croatia
In Round 25 of the Croatia Prva Liga the top three sides all lost! Hajduk was defeated at home to Karlovac 3:2 and this led to the sacking of Hajduk manager Goran Vucevic.

"We have decided to mutually terminate Vucevic's contract and hope by Monday we find a new solution for the manager's position. We will try and find a manager who will lead the club for the remainder of the season and the start of the new season but if that's not possible then we will find a short term resolution until the end of the season." Hajduk

President Josip Grbic said after his meeting with Goran Vucevic.

League leaders Dinamo were shocked by second from bottom Istra losing 2:1. First half goals to Eliomar and Belle was to much for Dinamo to chase in the second half only managing to score one goal through Montenegrin International Beciraj. This was only Dinamo's second loss this season but despite the defeat the club from the Capital Is still on route to win its sixth straight league title.

This was also the first defeat for Dinamo Manager Vahid Halihodzic in the 1HNL. "Following the news

from Split my players thought they could easily walk through the remainder of the season and receive the title without playing football. We played a shocking first half and we offered chances to the home side and they took full advantage of them." An angry Halihodzic said after the match.

Lokomotiva 0 : 0 Rijeka
Zagreb 2 : 2 Varaždin
Inter Zaprešić 3 : 2 Dragovoljac
Šibenik 2 : 0 Zadar
Osijek 1 : 0 Split
Hajduk 2 : 3 Karlovac
Cibalia 1 : 2 Slaven Belupo
Istra 19612 : 1 Dinamo

SHORT PASSES

Gary Cole Finishes at Victory
Melbourne Victory wishes to advise that Gary Cole is no longer employed as its Football Operations Manager.
Gary had been at the club since 2005 and played a significant role in helping Melbourne Victory to its two Hyundai A-League Premiership/ Championship doubles.
The club would like to thank Gary for his 6-years of service and wishes him well in his future endeavours.
The club stated that no further comment would be made at this point.


AUFC Announce New Kit Supplier
Adelaide United and Erreà Sport have announced a 3-year deal partnership. Erreà Sport will be the Official Kit Supplier of the Adelaide United for the HAL Season 2011/12, exclusively supplying all authentic on-field and off-field apparel.

Early start for Bleiberg's troops as pre-season looms
THE 2010/11 Hyundai A-League may only just have ended, but Miron Bleiberg's players will resume training next month as they prepare early for the 2011/12 competition.
Apart from plotting his course for pre-season training, the Gold Coast boss has also been busy scouting potential new talent to top up his squad, with several players from home and abroad heading to the glitter strip for trials in June.
In addition to local matches, Bleiberg has taken in several games in the Victorian Premier League (VPL), the breeding ground from which he plucked current Asian Footballer of the Year, Sasa Ogrenovski, in 2006. Sydney was another destination, with Bleiberg having fruitful talks with Sydney Olympic striker Alex Smith, who trained with Gold Coast last season.

Pascoe Vale celebrates 45 years
Pascoe Vale Soccer Club will be hosting a 45th Anniversary Ball for all affiliated members, players. The event will take place on Saturday 9th July.
For further details and bookings please contact Fay on 0408 386 850 or Despina on 0427 319 184.


SERBIA			
	P	GD	Pts
1. Partizan	22	56:17	56
2. Crvena zvezda	22	38:10	56
3. Vojvodina	22	36:8	53
4. Rad	22	33:12	45
5. Spartak	22	21:15	32
6. Smederevo	22	21:19	31
7. OFK Beograd	22	20:21	31
8. Sloboda Sevojno	22	24:26	28
9. Jagodina	22	19:20	27
10. Javor	22	15:16	27
11. BSK	22	18:26	26
12. Borac	22	14:23	24
13. Hajduk	22	14:30	15
14. Indija	22	18:38	14
15. Metalac	22	11:32	13
16. Cukaricki	22	6:48	4

CROATIA			
	P	GD	Pts
1 Dinamo	25	+36	61
2 Hajduk	25	+22	48
3 Inter Zaprešić	25	+3	41
4 Split	25	+11	40
5 Cibalia	25	+9	36
6 Osijek	25	+2	34
7 Karlovac	25	-3	34
8 Slaven Belupo	25	+3	33
9 Varaždin	25	-3	33
10 Rijeka	25	-6	33
11 Šibenik	25	+1	30
12 Zagreb	25	-5	30
13 Zadar	25	-6	28
14 Lokomotiva	25	-14	25
15 Istra 1961	25	-20	24
16 Hrvatski Dragovoljac	25	-30	19



Injury Time

Brought to you by



With Victory Physio Daniel Jones

Before I get into my weekly article, I would like to thank everyone for your continued support of my weekly column as well your on going support for Goal! Weekly. We all enjoy bringing you our stories every week.

This week I thought I would focus my column on the ankle injury sustained by Melbourne Victory captain and former International Kevin Muscat.

After beginning his professional career in the Australian National Soccer League, he played ten seasons

in England with Crystal Palace, Wolverhampton Wanderers, Rangers and Millwall. Kevin was regarded as tough uncompromising footballer who has been a fantastic servant for Melbourne Victory, the A-League and Australian football in general.

Kevin recently announced his retirement from all forms of football and is currently playing out his final matches in the Asian Champions League.

Unfortunately, Kevin is susceptible to injuries just like any other footballer. Late in

the game playing against the Brisbane Roar, (interestingly this was during the Roar's only loss of the season before going on to claim the A-League title.) Kevin limped off with an ankle injury, which kept him out for a month.

Ankle injuries are common in football. Early diagnosis and appropriate treatment is essential if the player is to return full competition without suffering a recurrence. The area of the ankle that is most vulnerable to injury is the lateral ligaments, which are injured when the ankle is forcefully turned in (inverted) with weight on the leg. Lateral ligament sprains can also be associated with fractures/dislocations, muscle strains, as well as nerve and vascular injuries. For this reason, assessment by a Sports Physician and Sports Physio-therapist is essential.

In most circumstances, the R.I.C.E.R (Rest, Ice, Compression, Elevation and Referral) and NO H.A.R.M. (No Heat, Alcohol, Running/exercise,

Massage) strategies should be implemented immediately to control pain and swelling. Later, an intensive physio-therapy program is important to regain optimal function and improve balance and proprioception (joint-position sense) to prevent re-injury. Ongoing problems with pain and stiffness during running and kicking can result from incomplete rehabilitation.

When returning to sport after an ankle injury, the ankle should be taped to provide additional support. Studies have shown that ankle taping does not weaken the ankle joint or place greater loads on the knee.

Generally, the injured ankle should be taped for training and games once the player is deemed fit to return to competition. I use premium rigid 38mm strapping tape, and apply it specifically for each injury. Elastowrap can be useful as a hypoallergenic under-wrap. In some circumstances, the player will be slowly be weaned off ankle taping but



Kevin Muscat goes down with an ankle injury against Brisbane Roar last season. Roddy Vargas stands guard.
Photo: ANITA MILAS

only when no residual instability remains, as determined by the physiotherapist.

Kevin will continue his role with the club in an assisting coaching position. It will be great to have his continued support and wealth of knowledge on call to all in our club.

For further taping techniques visit <http://www.elastoplastsport.com.au/injury/TapingTechniques.aspx> or alternatively downloading the iPhone application

*Daniel can be consulted at Lifecare Croydon Sports Medicine.



BOO'S WORLD



With Mark Boric

No news on the Melbourne Victory coaching front yet. They are still pouring through over seventy applications received through seek.com, and only half of those were from nobodies basing their CV on their Football Manager series exploits.

It was Sydney FC's turn to get battered in the Asian Champions League last week, going down 0-3 at home to Kashima Antlers. Neither Aussie team is set to do much in the competition this year, hopefully Brisbane Roar can keep most of the squad together and have a decent crack next edition.

There will be excitement at Katsa's coaching scoreboard as another wicket has fallen. The coaching merry-go-round is a predictable beast, and no sooner does the first go down for the season that it triggers a domino effect as another few fall down.

This week it is Ivan Duzel gone at the Melbourne Knights, replaced by Paul Magdic, or Madgic as it appeared in the headline on some websites during the week. It's looking like the next cab off the rank will be Green Gully's Lupo Lapsansky.

Real Madrid and Barcelona are about to hold their own version of the Baseball World Series, as they clash four times in eighteen days. It's a bit like Celtic and Rangers in the Scottish Premier League, only they will be playing



Sydney FC now needs a miracle to advance in the ACL.
Photo: GEOFF JONES

football.

Back to the VPL and there could be further point deductions on the way after an incident prior to the Heidelberg United v Melbourne Knights game last weekend. We should add a points deducted column to all the tables to add to the traditional P W D L G F GA Pts. A novel idea that may well prove worthwhile.

Interestingly enough, the Knights phone was ringing off the hook at Somers Street as newshounds from the Nine and Ten Networks chased up the story. The item even made it on to the ABC Radio news bulletin. Suffice to say that those of us who have been around long enough shouldn't be too surprised to expect that the only time the mainstream me-

dia actually bothers to give local football a decent run in their precious air time slots is when they get wind of a bit of ruckus. Where are they hiding the rest of the year? I guess no news is good news afterall.

Is it confirmed the A-League teams will be playing in the Mirabella Cup? Keep hearing rumours they aren't. Perhaps after Ballarat Red Devils beat Melbourne Heart on penalties after a 0-0 draw in the first of Heart's Grassroots Tour during the week, the HAL teams might struggle to get past the first round anyway. And what is happening with the Socceroo friendlies? A game against Chile seems to have fallen through, replaced with a glamour match-up against New Zealand.



THE KATSA

With George Katsamboukas

The Scorer had another busy week, and over the West Gate he went to capture the wicket of Ivan Duzel, from Melbourne Knights.

He thought that he would save petrol, and hang around that area, as Gully Coach Lapsansky is still hanging on to his Job by a thread, however after Gully's loss to Heidelberg, the chances of staying on are somewhat slim.

As occurs with good players, they get elevated to the Big Leagues, and the Scorer is no exception, where the huge Wicket of Gary Cole fell, quickly followed by Victory Assistant Coach, Aaron Healy.

That completes a clean sweep of the inaugural Victory Coaching Team, and the Good Folk there are frantically reading over 75 CV's, coming in from near and far, from Gaffers wanting the plum Victory Job.

Ernie is taking a sabbatical for the next 12 months, and looked very relaxed in the picture of him in The Herald-Sun this week, citing a Brighton Cafe as his office, as he was interviewed by Grantley 'Basketball' Bernard.

Next stop is Scotland to gain some further Coaching Qualifications.

He didn't give away too much though regarding the parting of ways with Victory, but my money is on Ernie using his Sports Science qualifications to land a Job at an AFL Club, one whose colours are Black and White

The punters were seething 2 weeks



Going, going, gone: The cleansweep was made complete this week when Gary Cole and Aaron Healy followed in Ernie's footsteps.

ago, when the Results of Round 1 State and Provisional League Matches were not placed on the House of Darebin Website.

The good folk there left it to the Club Powerbrokers to place the results on there, however, Club Powerbrokers are generally busy people straight after matches, with some results being input 24 hours after the Game's conclusion.

However, problem was solved and all's well that ends well, and with teething problems out the way the results are now available online by 6pm each Saturday.

Over to Manchester we go, where Sir Alex's dream of claiming the treble this year was shattered after Man City defeated the Reds 1-0 in the FA Cup Semi Final.

That leaves only 2 Trophies that they can claim this year.

Speaking of Sir Alex, he is keen to continue on as the Gaffer as long as his health allows him to, or until he gets a tap on the shoulder.

He has however named Mourinho as his possible successor, once he gives it away, somehow I think that the "Special One" should perhaps stick to gigs on the Continent, where his style of play is more suited.

Till next week

This is Katsa - just as you've known him.

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Reg Date

BLAST FROM THE PAST



With Roy Hay

Looking through the goal-scoring records of people who have played the game in Australia, it is hard to find anyone to compare with Reg Date.

In his senior club career between 1937 and 1954 he scored 664 goals in all competitions. In those days Australia played very few international matches, but in eight games, Date knocked in nine goals. His omission from the tour to Southern Rhodesia (Modern Zimbabwe) and South Africa in 1950 was controversial. In the trial match before the tour, playing for New South Wales, he scored six goals in a seven-one victory, but did not make the Australian team. Another powerful centre-forward from the Leichardt club in Sydney, Frank Parsons, was preferred. Gordon Nunn another striker also made the trip. Australia drew the series in South Africa two-all, but when they returned they played New South Wales at the Sydney Sports Ground and Date scored in a three-nil win against the tourists!

Reg Date was born in Wallsend, the mining town on the outskirts of Newcastle in the Hunter Valley of Northern New South Wales on 26 July 1921. He was a precocious talent scoring barrowloads of goals for Plattsburg primary and secondary schools including over 300 in 1936. He made his senior debut at 17 in a Robinson Cup final for Wallsend and quickly settled into a regular position in the team. Apart from three years between 1945 and 1947 when he transferred to Canterbury in the Sydney competition, he played all his club football for Wallsend. His highest total of goals in a season was in his last year at Canterbury when he knocked 72 in all competitions, including 33 in the Premiership.

A stocky, powerful player and deceptively quick he was well suited to the physical style of play used by club and representative sides in those days. But he did not lack skill developing a flick pass with both feet which could set up a team-mate twenty-five metres away as he ran at opposing defences. He was not just a goalscorer and he worked hard for his teams in a supporting role.

Date got his first cap for Australia in 1947 when South Africa visited. He played in two warm up matches for the tourists in April and then in all five test matches in May and June. Australia lost the series three-one with one match drawn, but Reg Date was the star scoring

in all but the final game and delivering a hat-trick in Australia's victory in Newcastle by five goals to one, the biggest winning margin of the series.

After that he did not play for Australia again until 1951 when England came on tour. The English team thought they had been very badly treated in New South Wales and when they took on Australia at the Sydney Cricket Ground on 30 June they were determined to make the hosts pay for their behaviour. The ground was heavy and in the absence of Gordon 'Bunny' Nunn, Reg Date was recalled to the team. The result was a 17-0 drubbing, the worst defeat ever suffered by the national team. Australia was lucky to get nil, and Date only played for his country one more time. He was in the Australian team against a touring Hong Kong Chinese team in 1953 and scored the only goal in a seven-one defeat.

[i] <#_edn1> Date was a regular player for Northern New South Wales and the New South Wales state team. He scored a hat-trick for New South Wales against the South Africans in a five-four loss at the SCG in May 1947. In 1953 he played and scored for Northern New South Wales against the Chinese tourists that year.

He had an offer to join Glasgow Rangers in Scotland but probably earned enough in the clandestine semi-professionalism which was creeping into the game in New South Wales to turn down the chance. The maximum wage limit was still in place in England at the time and that impinged on the payments by even the top clubs north of the border.[ii] <#_edn2> So unlike his contemporary Joe Marston he never played overseas for club or country. He would have been suited to the British style of game at the time. Reg Date died in August 1995.

[i] <#_ednref> 'Chinese win soccer test,' Morning Bulletin, Rockhampton, 10 August 1953, p. 8.

[ii] <#_ednref> George Young, the Rangers' captain, was only paid £12.00 a week in 1950. Archie McPherson, Jock Stein: The definitive biography, Highdown, Newbury, Berkshire, 2007, p. 44.

Right: The Australian team which played against a Hong Kong Chinese touring team in 1953. Reg Date is second from the right in the back row. Source: Sid Grant's Soccer Records.

Aussie Soccer's Bradman



Reg Date, right, was one of Australia's greatest ever players, scoring 664 goals in a senior career from 1937 to 1953. Here his powerful shooting causes an opponent to take evasive action. Source: Laurie Schwab collection.



Four stars of Australian football in the 1950s, Gordon 'Bunny' Nunn, Bob Lawrie, Alan Johns and Reg Date. All four represented Australia. Source: Sid Grant's Soccer Records.



Latin Wrap



Francis Fields

COPA LIBERTADORES
Peñarol fans at Tuesday’s Libertadores Cup match against Independiente unfurled a flag measuring 15,000 square metres that covered nearly two stands of the Centenario stadium.

The flag with the team’s yellow and black colours took four months to make, cost \$33,500 and celebrates the 120th anniversary of the Uruguayan club, who have won the South American title five times.

“Peñarol could present the flag to the Guinness Book of Records to be recognised as the biggest ever created,” Victor Bedrossian, one of the 200 fans involved in the project, told Reuters.

More than 300 fans helped to carry the flag weighing 1,880 kg from the Peñarol club headquarters in Montevideo to the Centenario.

Ecuadorian club Liga de Quito and Uruguay’s Peñarol secured places in the final 16 of the Copa Libertadores on Tuesday.

Liga beat Argentina’s Godoy Cruz 2-0, getting second-half goals from Luis Bolaños and Hernán Barcos. After a tight first half, Bolaños broke the deadlock with a goal off a pass from Barcos just after half-time. Barcos scored the second goal himself after dribbling past two defenders and smacking a shot into the roof of the net in the 59th.

Liga now has 10 points to top Group 8 in Latin America’s top club competition.

“Our big strength is our home form and we will hope to keep that going in the next round,” Barcos said.

Peñarol qualified in second despite losing 1-0 against Independiente. Facundo Parra scored the winning goal for the Argentine club in the 34th minute.

Peñarol has nine points in the group, with the eliminated clubs Independiente on eight and Godoy Cruz on seven.

Elsewhere Tuesday, Chilean club Colo Colo closed on a spot in the final 16 after rallying to beat Venezuelan side Deportivo Táchira 2-1 in Group 5.

Edgar Pérez Greco gave Táchira an early lead with a goal in the 4th minute, but Colo Colo struck back almost immediately with Diego Rubio’s equalizer. Rubio then scored a second goal in the 23rd minute to secure the win.

Colo Colo moved to the top of the group with nine points from five matches, while Tachira was eliminated.

Paraguay’s Cerro Porteño is second with eight points, while Santos has five. Both clubs have played only four matches.

Favourites Cruzeiro took their goals tally to 20 in six matches as they beat Estudiantes 3-0 away to go into the first knockout round among the seeded group winners on Wednesday.

Cruzeiro, who lost the 2009 final to the Argentine team, got their first win in La Plata at the fourth attempt having crushed Estudiantes 5-0 at home in their Group Seven opener in February.

Thiago Ribeiro put the Brazilian side ahead in the 11th minute when he slotted fellow striker Wallyson’s cross home at the far post.

Man-of-the-match Wallyson took his personal tally to six when he gave his side a 2-0 halftime lead with a fine solo goal in added time, sneaking between two defenders to round goalkeeper Agustin Orion and shoot into the roof of the net.

Internacional hires Falcao



Fans of Uruguayan football club Peñarol display a large flag measuring 15,000 sqm at the beginning of a Copa Libertadores match against Argentina’s Independiente.



It finished all square in the Peruvian derby between Alianza and La U

Left back Gilberto made it three in a lightning counter-attack eight minutes from the end of a rain-soaked second half at the Ciudad de La Plata stadium.

“The Libertadores is tough so we always mark hard when we don’t have the ball, then when we are in possession we try to play attractive football in the Brazilian style,” right back Pablo told Fox Sports of Cruzeiro’s mix between strong defence and fast counter-attacks. Cruzeiro finished the group phase with 16 points from five wins and a 0-0 draw - away to Deportes Tolima of Colombia—and a goals tally of 20-1.

Four times South American champions Estudiantes, who had also already qualified before Wednesday’s matches, finished second with 10 points and Tolima third with eight. Paraguay’s Guaraní lost their last match 2-0 at home to Tolima to notch up six defeats and a goals count of 2-16.

Teams to have qualified so far for the last 16 also include former champions LDU Quito, Peñarol and Gremio, Colombia’s Atlético Junior and Libertad of Paraguay.

Blatter Tours Sth America

FIFA President Sepp Blatter says he has received backing from seven Central American federations for his re-election bid after touring the region. Nice way to get votes, isn’t it?

Blatter says his tour is not connected to his re-election campaign but to fulfill his duties as the head of FIFA. Sure! The Swiss-based president ended his week-long Central American visit last Saturday in Panama, where he met with President Ricardo Martinelli. He also traveled to Guatemala, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Honduras and Belize. Blatter, who has been FIFA president for 13 years, faces Mohamed bin Hammam of Qatar in the June 1 election, a rare challenge in his bid for another four-year term to head world football. Sounds promising. And with regards to the Copa

América place, Japan has been reconsidering their decision to opt out of the continental tournament. Spain has turned down their invitation to play claiming a clash of calendar events to their schedule. Scared perhaps?

PERU

Alianza Lima draw goal-less with fierce arch-enemy Universitario de Deportes in their first “clásico” of the year at the Alejandro Villanueva of La Victoria, in the capital city of Lima. The Campeonato Descentralizado is in its eighth round with a first-half applauded by goalkeeper heroics, the second half delivered much more drama.

On the 57th minute, a counter-attack from Universitario by Pedro García was denied by a tight defense from Alianza. A minute later, Argentine Pablo Vitti had a long-range effort denied by goalkeeper Salomón Libman who also starred under the posts especially in set-pieces. Dead-ball situations particularly in Peru are where most goals are scored. The highlight of the derby was on the 67th minute when Antonio Gonzáles of “La U” tackled Junior Viza inside the box for the referee to award a penalty for the local side.

Fernández forced a save to his left and denied Alianza all three points in a pulsating finish. With this result, Alianza are on 15 points holding their undefeated campaign and atop of the standings whereas Universitario are in third place with twelve points.

CHILE

Universidad Católica is enjoying success at the top of the league championship with another win last weekend, this time 2-0 in the eleventh round of the Apertura season to rivals Cobreloa at home in San Carlos de Apoquindo, Santiago.

Coached by Argentine, former River Plate and FC Barcelona forward Juan Antonio Pizzi has notched



So you think Timmy Cahill and the AFL are causing rife? Brazilians salute inmates too as Cruzeiro’s Thiago Ribeiro braced two goals against Estudiantes away in La Plata.



Teofilo salutes the crowd

up its ninth victory from eleven matches and face fierce-rival Colo-Colo away at the Monumental stadium.

BRAZIL

Defending Copa Libertadores champion Internacional says it has hired former Brazil player and coach Paulo Roberto Falcão. Internacional made the announcement last Sunday, saying the former AS Roma star will be officially introduced on Monday. He had been working as a commentator for Brazil’s leading television channel. The 57-year-old Falcão helped Internacional win three Brazilian league titles as a player, in 1975-76 and ’79. He coached Brazil at the 1991 Copa América, and also briefly commanded Japan’s national side and Mexico’s Club América. He coached Internacional in 1993, but only for 14 matches.

The elegant defensive midfielder started for Brazil at the 1982 and 1986 World Cups. Inter had recently fired Celso Roth after disappointing results. Santos meanwhile says it has filed a complaint against AC Milan and Inter Milan for their alleged attempt to negotiate the transfer of playmaker Paulo Henrique Ganso without the Brazilian club’s consent. Club president Luis Alvaro de Oliveira Ribeiro told Folha newspaper of São Paulo that Santos “formally notified” the clubs and FIFA, saying the alleged attempts to talk to the young Brazilian midfielder breach international transfer rules.

Ganso has said he would like to play abroad and local media reported that his representatives negotiated with agents from the Italian clubs a few weeks ago. The representatives deny the reports. Brazilian club Corinthians also is reportedly interested in signing the 21-year-old Ganso.

ARGENTINA

Members and fans of San Lorenzo

via various fan groups and associates within the club held a rally during the week outside the Buenos Aires legislative building against a restitution order to permit the club, formed in Boedo to return to its traditional base headquarters.

A lawyer and club member stated the destitution of the club’s property as unjust and illegitimate and its appeal process will undergo this coming week under Legislative jurisdiction.

The appeal cause under the members’ lobbying not only is just for San Lorenzo fans but a move forward for fellow professional in Buenos Aires. The traditionally-based Boedo club and its old stadium remains a symbolic landmark in the city’s south-central district at La Plata avenue.

Over to the city of Rosario, coach Roberto Sensi has resigned following last week’s 2-0 loss with Newell’s Old Boys to joint leaders Vélez Sarsfield away. The coach who made a career in Italy’s Serie A and had assumed from the Clausura tournament in 2009, presented his announcement to the board to which was accepted immediately. He was under speculation after Newell’s loss away to league leaders River Plate three weeks ago. San Lorenzo and Lanus drew 1-1 to keep both clubs near the top of the Argentine Clausura on Saturday. Juan Carlos Mensiguez gave San Lorenzo a 1-0 lead in the 52nd minute and defender Paolo Goltz equalized 17 minutes later. Both clubs improved to three points behind leader River Plate who was playing on Sunday at Gimnasia in La Plata.

Late Saturday, bitter rivals Racing and Independiente faced each other in the mighty, always heartbreaking Avellaneda derby where on a Friday match, Quilmes defeated Newell’s Old Boys 3-1 fresh from Sensi’s resignation.

La “Academia” defeated a disappointing “Turco” Antonio Mohamed’s side who lacked efficiency up front. Fabián Assmann saved the “Red devils” in various opportuni-

ties as the 2-0 scoreline reflected a bitter afternoon for the red half of town. Miguel Ángel Russo and his Racing men starring Teófilo Gutiérrez are in the running for the title yet again.

Racing enjoyed after six years of agony and took full advantage of Independiente’s elimination mid-week in the Copa Libertadores. Gabriel Hauche put the “Academia” in front just before half-time from a splitting pass by Teófilo Gutiérrez in a superb performance from the youngster.

Finally, Racing made ends meet, capitalising on mistakes and pressing right up from midfield and Independiente paid the price when Colombian “Guti” made it 2-0 with three minutes remaining and igniting an absolute festival of wild celebrations in the greater Buenos Aires suburb.

MEXICO

Last weekend, football turned the populous nation to a standstill. It was the clásico between arch-rivals América and Chivas of Guadalajara. Chivas beat América 3-0 thanks to a goal from Erick ‘Cubo’ Torres and two from Marco Fabián. Playing home at the newly constructed Omnilife Stadium, it was the first time such derby took place there after abandoning their Jalisco state stadium on a ‘Clásico’ Sunday afternoon. With the theme of ‘Hagamos de la paz un Clásico,’ - translated to ‘Let’s play a peaceful derby’- as the teams started the game by making a large peace sign on the field.

Ironically, América ended the game with ten men after Ángel Reyna was sent off with a second yellow card with a few minutes left. Torres scored for Chivas in the 27th minute. Xavier Báez started a run on the right, he then crossed in for Torres, who was waiting on the penalty spot. Torres headed the ball and it went past Guillermo Ochoa. A brief altercation broke out in the 43rd minute. Colombian international Aquivaldo Mosquera had put a hand on Torres’ face, and Torres went down. Players began to push and shove, but nothing major came out of incident.

America had an opportunity in the 45th minute. Reyna left the Chivas defenders behind and then sent in a tight shot. Michel made it off his line and got a hand on the ball to knock it out of its path and sent it just wide of goal.

Chivas doubled its lead in the 72nd minute. Fabian passed to Torres, who held on and protected the ball on the edge of the box, to begin the play. Torres then passed back to Fabian for the Chivas player to shoot slot past Ochoa for the 2-0 lead.

Fabián scored his second and Chivas’ third in the 79th minute as he got the ball from midfield and passed to Omar Arellano who crossed the ball from the left toward the opposite post, and Fabián arrived without any marking to head the ball in for the third goal to cap off a miserable night for América.

Finally, news over in Monterrey, international Chilean forward Humberto Suazo has confirmed the need to undergo surgery on his troublesome shoulder. Suazo, who currently holds 62 goals for Monterrey has advised its club doctor his ‘uncomfortable state’ with his left shoulder with constant pain. He underwent surgery last year whilst on loan with La Liga side Real Zaragoza.

With the concurrent injury, Suazo is likely to miss the remainder of the Mexican season and will evaluate his availability to line-up Chile’s attack in time for the Copa America in July which will be shown on SBS.

NSW

Joseph Carlucci

Incessant rain across the state on Saturday disrupted Round 4 action in the NSW Premier League with two matches re-scheduled due to waterlogged pitches.

Both the Rockdale City Suns – Marconi Stallions and Bonnyrigg White Eagles – Sydney United matches were cancelled, with Football NSW to announce new dates for these fixtures in the coming week.

At Seymour Shaw on Saturday evening, Sutherland Sharks made the most of their synthetic pitch despite the wet conditions to overcome a brave Parramatta FC and surge to the top of the League ladder. The Sharks were forced to dig deep for the win, with the visiting Eagles taking the field with a very well organised setup. Brian Dene’s new signings Brodie Mooy and Matthew Osman made impressive debuts, though Sutherland’s Matt Bailey decided the match with a well taken goal – poking home Jim Bakis’ cross shortly after the second-half re-start to secure the win.

Sutherland were strong in defence, meanwhile Nick Stavroulakis played an exceptional match in the engine room, constantly breaking down Parramatta FC counterattacks and expertly starting his own side’s forward forays with some exquisite passing.

The win gives the Sharks a sole-

hold on top spot after Sydney United’s match against Bonnyrigg White Eagles was cancelled due to the wet weather.

A.P.I.A.-Leichhardt Tigers collected their first win of the season at Lily Homes Stadium with a 2-1 defeat of Blacktown City FC. Nick Rizzo’s injury time winner was enough for the travelling Tigers faithful, ensuring the defending champions remain winless after four matches.

Goalkeeping errors in the first-half by both shot-stoppers paved the way to goals for both sides. Stephen Kayes’ long-range effort on 24’ minutes was not dealt with by David Bradasevic who saw the ball go through his hands and finish in the bottom left-hand corner to hand the Tigers the lead. Moments before the break, Milorad Simonovic was on hand to slot home from close-range and take advantage of a goalkeeping blunder from Terry Dalbroi.

Blacktown City was forced to play the last 30’ minutes with ten men following Tyler Simpson’s straight red card for defence, leaving the side with a mammoth task to find a win. The visiting Tigers sealed their first win of the 2011 season in the 92’ minute via the feet of Rizzo. The Tigers substitute – making his return from injury – combined well with Sam Messam to clinch three very important points for A.P.I.A.-Leichhardt.

At John Crehan Park, South Coast Wolves’ brave effort



Goalmouth action from the FNSW Premier League as Blacktown and APIA battle it out yesterday.
Photo: CARLOS FURTADO/Courtesy FNSW

with 10-men for 80’ minutes nearly reaped reward with the side denied a point in the dying minutes by Bankstown City. A brace to Aman Hadid secured the Jensen Park side three very valuable points on a difficult surface following the rain of the past few days.

The Wolves lost Stephan Paric in the 9’ minute following a contrast with Stefanos Liavas, leaving the home side a man down for the remainder of the contest. Hadid opened the scoring in the 27’ minute as he latched onto Daniel Zeleny’s through ball. The Lions striker kept his cool to finish with aplomb past

Brody Crane. The Wolves strong showing in the second-half reaped some reward on 55’ minutes as Sasho Petrovski continued his fine goalscoring touch with another strong finish. With momentum entirely in favour of the Wolves, Hadid rose highest in the 86’ minute to head home Shannon Burgin’s free-kick to seal the win.

Manly United FC are still awaiting their first win of the season after being held to their fourth consecutive draw of the campaign. Craig Midgley’s side dominated Sydney Olympic throughout the encounter,

though some poor finishing in front of goal proved to be the side’s undoing. The Cromer Park outfit took the lead midway through the first-half courtesy of Matthew Sim who shot well into the bottom corner from the edge of the penalty-area.

The Blues, who were unbeaten until last weekend, managed to draw level and salvage a point 25’ minutes from the end as new signing Richard Luksic found the equaliser. The burly defender managed to bundled home Phil Makrys’ set-piece to ensure the Blues left Dee Why with a share of the spoils.

NSW Results

FIRST GRADE:
Rockdale City Suns Marconi Stallions Washed Out, Sutherland Sharks 1 (Matthew Bailey 48m) Parramatta Eagles 0, Bonnyrigg White Eagles Sydney United Washed Out, Manly United FC 1 (Matthew Sim 25m) Sydney Olympic 1 (Richard Luksic 70m), South Coast Wolves 1 (Saso Petrovski 56m) Bankstown City 2 (Aman Hadid 26/85m, Blacktown City FC 1 (Milorad Simonovic 42m) APIA Leichhardt Tigers 2 (Stephen Kayes 23m Nicola Zecura 92m).

GRADE 20:
Rockdale City Suns Marconi Stallions Washed Out, Sutherland Sharks 0 Parramatta Eagles 0, Bonnyrigg White Eagles Sydney United Washed Out, Manly United FC 4 Sydney Olympic 3, South Coast Wolves 2 Bankstown City 2, Blacktown City FC 2 APIA Leichhardt Tigers 2.

Next Week

APIA Leichhardt vs Sutherland Sharks
Lambert Park 3:00 PM Fri 22/Apr

Manly United FC vs Rockdale City Suns
Cromer Park 7:00 PM Sat 23/Apr

Bankstown City vs Blacktown City FC
Jensen Park 7:00 PM Sat 23/Apr

Marconi vs Bonnyrigg White Eagles
Marconi Stadium 3:00 PM Mon 25/Apr

Parramatta FC vs Sydney Olympic
Melita Stadium 4:00 PM Mon 25/Apr

Sydney United vs South Coast Wolves
Sydney Utd Sports Centre 4:00 PM Mon 25/Apr

Standings

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Sutherland Sharks	4	3	0	1	7	4	3	10
2 Sydney United	3	2	0	1	9	3	6	7
3 Sydney Olympic	4	2	1	1	6	3	3	7
4 Bankstown City	4	2	1	1	4	4	0	7
5 South Coast Wolves	4	2	2	0	6	8	-2	6
6 APIA Leichhardt	4	1	1	2	6	6	0	5
7 Marconi Stallions	3	1	1	1	5	4	1	4
8 Manly United FC	4	0	0	4	7	7	0	4
9 Bonnyrigg WE	3	0	0	3	3	3	0	3
10 Parramatta FC	4	0	2	2	4	6	-2	2
11 Blacktown City	4	0	3	1	3	6	-3	1
12 Rockdale City	3	0	2	1	2	8	-6	1

Jarrod Ellis

QLD

Perry Park played host to a clash between premiership hopefuls Brisbane Strikers and NQ Razorbacks, the match didn’t disappoint for the neutrals a 4-3 goalfest ensuing but the home side did enough to claim the three points.

Matt Christensen scored once and Matt Thurtell twice to enable the Strikers to take a 3-1 lead into the half time break.

Robin Edwards got one back for the Razorbacks just before the half and his team would have been pleased with a 2-1 halftime score. However Matt Thurtell scored what would prove to be a vital goal in first half injury time, beating Ryan Chellingworth with a well placed finish.

The Razorbacks returned to the field with a renewed intensity in the second half but despit their efforts they found themselves 4-1 down by the 51st minute.

Chellingworth was largely at fault this time for the goal, slow off his line he brought down Chris Di Sipio in the box and was then unable to stop the striker from converting from the spot.

At 4-1 the match could have become a procession but the visitors had other ideas, stepping up their

Goals Galore at Perry Park

play and pulling a goal back only four minutes later. Josh Evans powering a header into the Strikers net from a well taken corner.

The Razorbacks had the better of the rest of the half, pouring forward in an attempt to find a third goal whilst defending desperately against some well worked Brisbane counterattacks.

The endeavour of the visitors eventually paid off as they claimed their third goal in injury time, Evans striking again to claim a brace but it was too little too late and Ken Mitchell’s side will have returned to Townsville wondering what could have been if they’d found that level of play earlier in the evening.

One side that knows just what it’s like to meet a Razorbacks side in full flight is the Whitsunday Miners who copped a 3-0 thrashing just a week ago. The Miners have put in some solid performances aside from that match this season and they did so once again on Saturday snatching a 3-3 draw from the jaws of defeat in their match against QSL newcomers Southern Cross United.

This was the first appearance for the Miners at their home ground and despite trailing for the entire match they were able to snatch a point thanks to the heroics of former Southampton junior Jamie Hatch.

Having scored once in the first



Bulls team mates engulf Josh De Nittis after scoring the third goal of the night, and an absolute screamer. Photos: JIM HATCHMAN

half Hatch struck twice in the final eight minutes, including an equaliser two minutes into injury time to pull his side back from 3-1 down.

Further north in Mareeba the FNQ Bulls encountered Capricorn Cougars for the first time this season. The Cougars have been in disarray of late, a succession of bad results coupled with

numerous players pulling out of the squad or announcing their intentions to must have coach Washington Gonzales wondering what he can do to revive the clubs fortunes.

The Bulls on the other hand entered the match on the back of being the first side to take point from QSL powerhouse Sunshine Coast this season and that con-

trast in confidence played out as it would be expected on the field.

David Ruiz, Steven Dunn and Josh Denittis all found the back of the net to complete a resounding 3-0 victory for the home side. The Cougars will need to improve drastically over the course of the season or they’re likely to find themselves holding the wooden spoon by seasons end.



QSL action between Sunshine Coast Fire and Gold Coast Stars. Photos: ROBYN WOODALL

Queensland Results

Brisbane Strikers 4 (Christensen 6, Thurtell 37,45, DiSipio 51) NQ Razorbacks 3 (Edwards 43, Evans 55,90)

Whitsunday Miners 3 (Hatch 36, 82, 90+2) Southern Cross Utd 3 (Farina 7, 25, Zullo 76)

FNQ Bulls 3 (Ruiz 29, Dunn 59, De Nittis 85) Capricorn Cougars 0

Sunshine Coast Fire 3 (Henderson 19, Knight 33, Holmes 58) Gold Coast Stars 0

Qld Academy Sport 5 (Ronto 11, 43, Quinn 41, Yeboah 81, Borello 90) Bundaberg Spirit 0

Next Week

Bundaberg Spirit v FNQ Bulls
Sat 30-Apr 7:00pm

Capricorn Cougars v Sunshine Coast
Sat 30-Apr 7:00pm

NQ Razorbacks v QAS
Sat 30-Apr 7:00pm

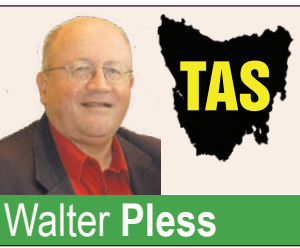
Gold Coast Stars v Whitsunday Miners
Sun 01-May 2:00pm

Southern Cross Utd v Brisbane Strikers
Sun 01-May 3:00pm

Standings

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Sunshine Coast FC	6	5	1	0	14	2	12	16
2 Brisbane Strikers	5	4	0	1	18	6	12	12
3 NQ Razorbacks	6	3	0	3	13	9	4	9
4 Quid AoS	5	2	2	1	11	7	4	8
5 Gold Coast Stars	4	2	1	1	7	7	0	7
6 FNQ Bulls	4	1	2	1	7	6	1	5
7 Southern Cross	5	1	1	3	8	12	-4	4
8 Whitsunday Miners	4	0	3	1	5	8	-3	3
9 Capricorn Cougars	5	0	1	4	4	17	-13	1
10 Bundaberg Spirit	4	0	1	3	3	16	-13	1

Champs go 4 points clear



Walter Pless

South Hobart, the reigning champions in the Forestry Tasmania Southern Premier League, moved 4 points clear at the top with a 4-2 away win over Olympia Warriors on the artificial pitch at Warrior Park on Friday night.

Hobart had record April rainfall during the week and the Beachside versus Tilford Zebras game at Sandown Park was called off, but it could rain every day all year and games could still go ahead at Warrior Park, a unique Tasmanian venue.

Olympia had sacked coach Chris Hey during the week, but new supremo Franco Previdi could not conjure up a win for the second-last placed outfit in his first game in charge.

“I’m not a magician,” Previdi said at the post-match media conference.

Olympia did weave some early magic in this game, nevertheless, surviving a blistering opening 10 minutes by the visitors before taking a shock lead in the 11th minute through a brilliant goal by Nick Meredith, who collected a pass to the left by Kosta Grillas before cutting inside and beating three defenders and firing past South Ho-

bart keeper Sam Kruijver.

This was barely a hiccup for South, who drew level within a minute. Jim Pennicott sent over a low cross from the right and Andy Brennan, incredibly, shot against the crossbar from 6 metres. The ball rebounded into play and Brayden Mann headed home from the edge of the 6-yard box.

Olympia’s ‘new coach’ syndrome kicked in again, however, and captain Josh Fielding restored their lead in the 27th minute when he expertly controlled the ball inside the box before rounding the keeper and stroking the ball into the net.

South Hobart were on the pitch for the second half well before the return of the Olympia players and captain Andrew Brown could clearly be seen revving up his teammates as they waited in a huddle.

Once South Hobart kicked off the second half, there was no stopping them, despite the heroics of Olympia keeper Michael McKenna, who, it was thought, would leave the club after the dismissal of Hey.

South Hobart equalised for the second time when, in the 56th minute, Kostas Kanakaris opportunisticly took a quick free-kick and put Greg Downes into the box to score.

One got the impression then that it was only a matter of time before South Hobart registered their 50th game in a row without a loss.

In the 61st minute, impression became reality as Kanakaris slipped the ball through for Brennan to run on to and calmly lift it over the advancing McKenna to finally give the visitors the lead they richly deserved.



Kingborough's Ryan Bevan (right) outruns the Knights' Callen Griffin. Photos: WALTER PLESS

When Mann slid home Brennan’s cross at the far post 8 minutes from the end, victory was assured.

Glenorchy Knights remained anchored at the foot of the ladder when they squandered some excellent first-half chances before losing 4-2 away to Kingborough Lions United at Lightwood Park.

An interested spectator was Sydney FC chairman, Scott Barlow, who played for the Lions in the 1990s. He was back in Tasmania for family reasons and took time out to watch his former club, and their 17-year-old central defender Will Abbott, who has had recent trials with Brisbane Roar.

Knights took an early lead through

Callen Griffin, but a splendid free-kick from 20 metres by Abbott a minute before the break made it 1-1 at half-time.

Marc Iseli put the Lions in front in the 53rd minute with a bizarre goal. The Knights’ new French signing, Matthieu Gregoire, attempted to clear from just outside the box, but the ball cannoned off Iseli and rocketed past Knights keeper Ben Peter.

Tom Sherman drew the Knights level in the 66th minute, but Ryan Bevan restored the Lions’ lead two minutes later when he nodded home David Cooper’s left-wing cross.

Cooper made it 4-2 three minutes from the end when Jacob Huigsloot

slipped at the vital moment and allowed the Kingborough man an unimpeded run at goal to beat Peter with ease.

Ulverstone, the leaders of the Forestry Tasmania Northern Premier League, lost their first game of the season when they went down 3-1 to champions Northern Rangers. Goals by Hunt, Lanau-Atkinson and Jago did the damage, while Ben Foote netted Ulverstone’s consolation goal.

Devonport City’s night of festivities to celebrate the opening of their new floodlights was dealt a harsh blow when they succumbed 4-1 to Prospect Knights at Valley Road.

In other matches, Somerset overcame Launceston United 3-0 and Riverside Olympic accounted for Burnie United by the same scoreline.



Sydney FC chairman Scott Barlow (left) with Kingborough president Brian Dale at Lightwood Park to watch Kingborough play Glenorchy Knights on Saturday.

Southern Division										
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts			
South Hobart FC	6	4	2	0	18	6	14			
Clarence United	6	4	1	1	14	14	13			
New Town Eagles	6	3	2	1	12	9	11			
Tilford Zebras	6	2	3	1	17	11	9			
Kingborough Lions	6	2	0	4	11	17	6			
Beachside FC	6	1	2	3	7	10	5			
Olympia FC	6	1	1	4	11	17	4			
Glenorchy Knights	6	0	3	3	8	14	3			

Forestry Tasmania Results

Southern Premier League
Olympia FC 2 South Hobart FC 4
Kingborough Lions 4 Glenorchy Knights 2
Beachside FC Tilford Zebras **Postponed**
New Town Eagles 1 Clarence United 1

Northern Premier League
Ulverstone 1 Northern Rangers 3
Somerset 3 Launceston United 0
Riverside Olympic 3 Burnie United 0
Devonport City 1 Prospect Knights 4

Next Week

Southern Premier League
Saturday 23rd April 2011
Statewide Lakoseljac Cup - 2nd Qual. Round

Saturday 30th April 2011
Beachside FC v Glenorchy Knights
Sandown Park 1 02:30 PM
New Town Eagles v Olympia FC
Clare Street 02:30 PM
Clarence United v Kingborough Lions
Wentworth Park 2 06:30 PM

Sunday 1st May 2011
South Hobart FC v Tilford Zebras
South Hobart 02:30 PM

Northern Premier League
Saturday 23rd April 2011
Statewide Lakoseljac Cup - Qual. Round 2

Saturday 30th April 2011
Launceston United v Northern Rangers
Birch Avenue 02:30 PM
Prospect Knights v Ulverstone
Prospect Park 02:30 PM
Burnie United v Devonport City
Montello 02:30 PM
Somerset v Launceston City
Cardigan Street 02:30 PM
Riverside Olympic v Bye

Northern Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ulverstone	3	3	0	0	12	2	9
Northern Rangers	4	3	1	1	7	3	7
Riverside Olympic	4	2	1	1	10	9	7
Devonport City	3	2	0	1	8	7	6
Prospect Knights	3	2	0	1	4	3	6
Launceston City	4	1	2	1	6	6	5
Somerset	4	1	0	3	7	9	3
Burnie United	3	1	0	2	4	8	3
Launceston Utd	4	0	0	4	9	20	0



Nat Adamopoulos

Football fans could well be already thinking who can stop Adelaide City this season as they methodically went about taking the 3 points over MetroStars at TK Shutter Reserve on Saturday.

Midfielder and 2007 Sergio Melta Player of the Year Nicky Orr played a big part in the win, giving some of his best football with a goal and an assist in the 2:0 defeat over their east town rivals.

Historically MetroStars had the wood over City, winning sixteen of their thirty six encounters with six draws, but as would be expected the game between these two sides was tight. City took control early in the match, Jason Spagnuolo going for an early solo run in the 5th minute making his way to the edge of the box only to be quickly shut down by Metros staunch defence.

City’s Nick Budin, Riccardo DaSilva and Orr had good supply from their midfielders causing the MetroStars backline of the Menechella brothers Dave and Daniel, Adam Van Dommele and Captain Lee Robertson to work hard to prevent any breakthrough.

The pendulum swung to the home-side in the middle of the first half, Metros holding possession well but Adelaide City dealing with each attack forward easily.

Towards the latter part of the first 45 minutes, City took back control through their Jonathon Negus, Spagnuolo and Jace Cummins combination, with plenty of opportunities being presented for the Black and Whites to open the



Adelaide City's Andrew Marveggio puts the icing on the cake in the 2-0 win over MetroStars. Photo: ADAM BUTLER

scoring. Spagnuolo chipped in a shot that dribbled across the face of goal, Budin not able to get onto it. Backman Negus then had his chance to nod one in from an Orr free kick, his shot just going wide of the near post.

MetroStars Dave Menechella was relentless in his defending, his hard hitting tackles keeping the free kick tally ticking over for City and Referee Goodwin’s eyes on close watch. Then aerial ping pong down the other end just before the half time whistle, Metros desperately trying to find the back of the net but City’s strength in blocking any ball that came through rising to the forefront.

The deadlock was broken in the 52nd minute by Adelaide City af-

ter an uncharacteristic error by Metros keeper Dan Godley saw Orr pounce. Defender Daniel Menechella kicked the ball back to Godley whose intent to push the ball out to an approaching Dave Menechella out wide was quickly intercepted by Orr. Once sidestepping Godleys lunge at the ball he stabbed the ball through an open goal for City’s first of the match.

Some tactical changes by City’s coach Damian Mori taking a solid gamer Matt Mullen off for an equally solid Andrew Marveggio, were counteracted by his opposite David Terminello with a double change... Perry Mitris and Louis Brain on for Anthony Taormina and Michael Matricciani. Adelaide City were now man marking, leav-

ing MetroStars nowhere to go and no way of breaking down their opponents line of defence.

The high temperatures for this time of the year were now starting to take their toll on players testing their fitness. Another change in the 70th minute by Mori with young Patrick DeRuvo on for a tiring Riccardo DaSilva brought some action.

Budin narrowly missed scoring in the 73rd as his shot skimmed over the cross bar but just three minutes later their second coming through Marveggio. Starting from a Jordan D’Arsie throw in that was headered down to Orr by Budin, Orr’s volley was perfectly placed for the young substitute to run onto and chip over the keepers outstretched hands. MetroStars service to their front

men was at times lacking and frustration was evident as Brain was lucky to not see red, receiving a yellow card for his two footed sliding tackle on the goal scorer just minutes later, taking Metros foul tally to fourteen. Game broadcasting radio SRTI’s Man of the Match Nicky Orr commented about his goal after the match. “I saw Godley kicking it out and I thought I can get on top of this and put it away which I did... it felt good.”

After their demoralizing 8:0 defeat of Modbury Jets on the Monday night and now this strong win, Adelaide City take outright top position on the ladder, sending a huge message out to those clubs below them. Having beaten all the top sides in the first four rounds of the season, scoring ten goals in just two matches with a total of fourteen and with a line of defence that is almost impenetrable only having conceding the one solitary goal, Adelaide City have stamped their authority on the Super League with defiance....one that will be extremely difficult to defeat.

Other matches around the grounds saw Modbury Jets and Campbelltown Red Devils in a 0 : 0 draw played out on Friday night, despite their coach and past golden boot getter missing a penalty. Para Hills Knights and Adelaide Blue Eagles also toughing out a 0 : 0 draw at The Paddocks, Raiders coming back at home at the Croatian Sports Centre to see a final result of 1 : 1 against the strong performers Croydon Kings and Adelaide Galaxy notching up a victory at home in their 1 : 0 win against Western Strikers at Con Makris Park. The Mens Season Competition takes a brak over Easter next week with some minor Cup games being played out.

FFSA Results

MetroStars 0 Adelaide City 2 (Nicky Orr, Andrew Marveggio) HT (0-0)
Best – MetroStars - Daniel Menechella, Steven Grelli, Jackson Groves: Adelaide City - Jonathon Negus, Paul Pezos, Grooves

Para Hills 0 Adelaide Blue Eagles 0 HT (0-0)
Best – Para Hills- Jordan Elsey, Shane Tobias, Brett Selga - Blue Eagles - Di Mella, De Lucia,

Raiders 1 (Adam Harris) v Croydon 1 (Ben Tarabar) HT (0-0)
Best – Raiders – Daniel Hain, Adam Harris, Bruk Asres – Croydon – Luke Klimek, Ben Tarabar, Alemayo Kebede

Adelaide Galaxy 1 (Kodi Madeley) v Western Strikers 0 HT (0-0)
Best – Galaxy – (Kodi Madeley, Scott Weidenbach, Tom Briscoe) - Western Strikers (Russo, D’Alfonso, Wiens)

Modbury 0 v Campbelltown 0 (HT 0 -0)
Best Modbury - Rounis, Solagna, Carter: Campbelltown Signoriello, Piotto, Parhas

Standings

	P	W	D	L	For	Ag	GD	Pts
1 Adelaide City	4	4	0	0	14	1	13	12
2 Adelaide Galaxy	4	3	1	0	7	2	5	10
3 Croydon	4	2	2	0	5	2	3	8
4 Metro Stars	4	2	1	1	4	3	1	7
5 Campbelltown	4	1	2	1	4	4	0	5
6 Adelaide BE	4	1	1	2	3	5	-2	4
7 Para Hills	4	1	1	2	3	6	-3	4
8 Western Strikers	4	1	0	3	4	5	-1	3
9 Raiders	4	0	1	3	3	7	-4	1
10 Modbury	4	0	1	3	1	13	-12	1

Next Week

Modbury vs Metro Stars
Jet Park 7:45 PM Fri 29/Apr

Adelaide Blue Eagles vs Raiders
Marden Sports Complex 3:00 PM Sat 30/Apr

Croydon vs Adelaide Galaxy
Polonia Reserve 3:00 PM Sat 30/Apr

Campbelltown vs Western Strikers
Steve Woodcock Sports 3:00 PM Sat 30/Apr

Adelaide City vs Para Hills
Adelaide City Park 7:30 PM Mon 2/May

Inglewood dent Lions pride 5-1



Jacob Kagi

Inglewood United caused the shock of round eight of the WA State Premier League with a 5-1 home thrashing of Stirling Lions.

Last year's preliminary finalists two points ahead of Inglewood on the table and the Lions looked likely to increase the gap between the two sides when Phil O'Callaghan gave them a 49th minute lead.

But after Stirling wasted a couple of good chances to double their advantage, Inglewood produced five goals in a stunning 33 minute onslaught to secure the three points and move within one point of the top five ahead of Perth's Sunday match against Floreat Athena.

Rory Grant levelled the score with a 59th minute goal before Ndumba Makeche scored either side of a James Sammut strike to give Inglewood a 4-1 lead after 76 minutes.

Ryan Clarke then wrapped up an incredible United perfor-

mance in injury time with his side's fifth goal.

Inglewood's win was the perfect way to bounce back from its 4-1 loss to Balcatta the previous week, but significantly increased the pressure on Lions coach Paul Lincoln, who has seen his side lose four of its first eight matches.

A late Jason Barrera winner saw Balcatta move seven points clear at the top of the table with a 2-1 victory against Cockburn City.

Although second placed side Western Knights have two games in hand after their round eight bye, Balcatta firmed as title favourites with their seventh win of the season.

Burton gave Balcatta the lead after just seven minutes but Cockburn responded just after half-time through Johnny Mirco.

But the league leaders avoided their first draw of the season through Barrera's 81st minute strike.

Cockburn's loss saw it left in the relegation zone with just four points from its first six games.

Bayswater City came back from a goal down to thump Sorrento 4-1.

David Foster gave Sorrento

the lead in the first minute but it was short lived as Gustavo Marulanda scored in the 12th minute to tie the game at 1-1.

Striker Gavin Knight then gave Bayswater the lead in the 20th minute before goals to Alex Caniglia and Larry Miller wrapped up the points for City and left Sorrento struggling with just seven points from its first six games.

ECU Joondalup and Mandurah City played out a dour 0-0 draw.

The result was enough to see Joondalup remain in the top five with 11 points from their first eight games, but several of the teams chasing them have games in hand.

Mandurah was two points outside the top five ahead of Perth's match on Sunday, with eight points from its first eight games, but the southern suburbs side's chances of sneaking into the finals took a major hit with Andy Brown's departure to Stirling during the week.

Armadale thrashed the National Training Centre 4-1 in a match which doesn't count for points. The NTC were down 3-0 within 27 minutes before they got one back, but Paul Lloyd wrapped up Armadale's win with a 67th minute strike.



Stirling Lions keeper Cory Hugo beats Inglewood United striker Ndumba Makeche to the ball in United 5-1 win at the 6PR Stadium. Photo: PETER SIMCOX

Meanwhile, Bunbury Forum Force showed they'll be one of the favourites to earn promotion to the Premier League with a 7-0 thumping of Fremantle Spirit in the opening round of the Division One season.

Elsewhere, new State League arrivals Shamrock Rovers held

Wanneroo City to a 0-0 draw, Swan United thrashed relegation favourites Canning City 4-0, Forrestfield United recorded a 4-2 victory over Ashfield, Dianella White Eagles beat Gosnells City 2-1 and Rockingham City and Morley Windmills drew 0-0.

All Flags WA Results

First Team

Inglewood Utd 5 (Grant 59, Makeche 62, 76, Sammut 75, Clarke 92) Stirling Lions 1 (O'Callaghan 49); Armadale 4 (Robinson 6, 27, Young 13, Lloyd 67) NTC 1 (Ambrogio 39); Cockburn City 1 (Mirco 58) Balcatta 2 (Burton 7, Barrera 81); ECU Joondalup 0 Mandurah City 0; Bayswater City 4 (Maralunda 12, Knight 20, Caniglia 75, Miller 89) Sorrento 1 (Foster 1).

Reserves

Inglewood Utd 2 Stirling Lions 2; Armadale 0 NTC 3; Cockburn City 3 Balcatta 3; ECU Joondalup 3 Mandurah City 2; Bayswater City 1 Sorrento 1.

Under 18's

Inglewood Utd 3 Stirling Lions 2; Armadale 2 NTC 3; Cockburn City 2 Balcatta 3; ECU Joondalup 3 Mandurah City 0; Bayswater City 1 Sorrento 1.

NEXT WEEK

Inglewood United v Armadale SC

6PR Stadium 3:00 PM Sat 23/Apr

Perth SC v Western Knights

BGC Stadium 3:00 PM Sat 23/Apr

Bayswater City v NTC

Frank Drago Reserve 3:00 PM Sat 23/Apr

Mandurah City v Floreat Athena FC

Hyundai Stadium 3:00 PM Sat 23/Apr

Stirling Lions v ECU Joondalup

Macedonia Park 3:00 PM Sat 23/Apr

Sorrento FC v Cockburn City

Percy Doyle Reserve 3:00 PM Sat 23/Apr

BYE v Balcatta SC

All Flags WA Premier League

	P	W	D	L	For	Ag	GD	Pts
1 Balcatta	8	7	0	1	23	8	15	21
2 Western Knights	6	4	2	0	11	3	8	14
3 Bayswater City	8	3	2	3	15	15	0	11
4 ECU Joondalup	8	3	2	3	10	13	-3	11
5 Perth SC	5	3	1	1	9	5	4	10
6 Inglewood United	6	3	0	3	13	11	2	9
7 Mandurah City	8	2	2	4	7	10	-3	8
8 Stirling Lions	8	2	2	4	11	17	-6	8
9 Armadale	6	2	1	3	7	9	-2	7
10 Sorrento	6	2	1	3	7	12	-5	7
11 Cockburn City	6	1	1	4	7	13	-6	4
12 Floreat Athena	5	0	2	3	6	10	-4	2

ACT Fed Cup Details

Loop Federation Cup Final
Sunday 17th April 2011
McKellar Park, Belconnen

Canberra FC 5 (Victor Yanes 38', Michael Spaleta 40', 78' (pen), Matt Valeri (own goal) 62', Ryan Keir 88')
Belconnen United 0

Canberra FC: 18. Ben Klug (gk), 5. John Glass (6. Ryan Keir 78'), 9. Michael Spaleta, 11. Ivan Pavlak, 12. Ian Graham, 14. Josip Jadric, 16. Matt Grbesa, 19. Adam Spaleta (3. Izach Clements 85'), 23. Marcin Zygmunt, 76. Aidan Brunskill, 99. Victor Yanes (8. Anthony Bekavac 66')
Substitutes not used: 7. Paul Ivanic, , 1. Adam Perakovic (gk)

Belconnen United: 1. Rohan Shepherd (gk), 2. Matt Valeri, 5. Taylor Beaton, 6. Michael Reeves (8. Callum Smith 66'), 7. Callum Beaton, 9. Nicky Rogers, 10. Tom Rogic, 12. Elliot Zwagobani (15. Tom McLachlan 62'), 16. Zak Maybury, 18. Jack Blackley, 19. David Arranz (17. Glenn Smith 34')
Substitutes not used: 4. Lee Pietrukowski, 20. Jack Kaye (gk)
Discipline: YELLOW CARDS: 12. Eliot Zwagobani, 16. Zak Maybury (both Belconnen United)
Match Officials: Ben Wilson (referee), Owen Goldrick, Matt Rynne, David Ockerby (4th Official)



Russ Gibbs

Canberra FC reemphasised their superiority in the ACT with a resounding 5-0 defeat of perennial rivals Belconnen United in the 2011 loop Federation Cup Final at McKellar Park.

A brace of goals from Michael Spaleta added to Victor Yanes opener and, with Matt Valeri putting through his own goal and Ryan Keir adding to the tally, Canberra FC ruthlessly claimed the first silverware of the ACT season.

There was little sense of the drama to come at the end of the half inside the first twenty minutes of the match as the Blue Devils had the better of the opening exchanges, almost taking the lead inside three minutes when midfielder Michael Reeves broke through and fired a low shot that clipped the outside of the post with Canberra FC goalkeeper Ben Klug at full stretch.

Twenty minutes later Belconnen went close again when Tom Rogic sent a speculative half-volley from distance which dipped just over Klug's bar with the Canberra FC 'keeper back-peddalling frantically.

This double chance for the home team sparked the 2010 treble winners into gear and, after Michael Spaleta drilled a low effort just wide, Canberra FC really should have taken the lead on 37 minutes. Adam Spaleta was the architect splitting the Belconnen defence with a sensational pass that sent Victor Yanes sprinting clear. With just Shepherd to beat the forward steadied himself but placed his shot wide of the post.



Belconnen United goalkeeper Rohan Shepherd dives in vain as Michael Spaleta curls in Canberra FC's second goal of the match. Photos: RUSS GIBBS

Within sixty seconds however the skilful playmaker had made amends. Collecting a pass on the left hand side of the field Yanes cut inside before sending a beautiful right-foot curling shot beyond the grasp of Shepherd to give Canberra FC the lead.

And it was double-trouble for the Blue Devils barely two minutes later when Rob Graham's team took a firm grip on the loop Federation Cup. Michael Spaleta grabbed the opportunity claiming a through ball and standing up his marker before bending a left-foot effort into the top corner for 2-0 and a half-time cushion that they looked unlikely to relinquish.

Any hopes that Belconnen had of getting back into the match were effectively ended just after the hour mark when Josip Jadric burst down the right wing and fired a low cross into the area that Blue Devils central defender Matt Valeri unfortunately diverted past his own 'keeper for the third, and decisive, Canberra FC goal.

Belconnen attempted to give themselves a foothold in the match with Tom Rogic prominent, the midfielder firing over when well placed and seeing a low left-foot shot saved by Klug who did well to scramble to his feet and push the follow up strike from Michael Reeves round the post but Canberra FC, in general, looked unruffled.

The visitors heaped misery on Belconnen twelve minutes from the end with a fourth goal. Shepherd did well to deny Canberra FC substitute Anthony Bekavac by bravely diving at the youngster's feet, but as the ball broke to Ivan Pavlak a rash challenge by Zak Maybury gave referee Ben Wilson no option but to point to the spot. Michael Spaleta made no mistake from the penalty mark to claim his second of the afternoon.

The afternoon of torment wasn't all over yet though for the Blue Devils with substitute Ryan Keir slamming home the fifth from close range to cap a glorious day again for the red machine.



Taylor Beaton (Belconnen United Captain, in blue) tries to outstrip Michael Spaleta (Canberra FC, in red) scorer of the second Canberra FC goal.

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WAG OF THE WEEK



Gemma Atkinson Age: 27
Scored with Cristiano Ronaldo (Real Madrid)



Couch Potato Dept.

* ALL TIMES ARE AEST



SBS ONE
Monday April 18th
4:30 pm FIFA Futbol Mundial
11:30 pm The World Game

Thursday April 21st,
05:15 AM Copa Del Rey Final: Barcelona v Real Madrid - LIVE

Sunday April 24th
10:30 AM Football Asia
11:00 AM Les Murray's Football Feature - Highlights of Copa Del Rey:
Barcelona v Real Madrid
12:00 PM UEFA Champions League Magazine Program

Wednesday 27 April
SBS ONE
4:30am (aest) LIVE - Semi-final 1st Leg
Schalke v Manchester United

SBS TWO
11.00pm Replay - Semi-final 1st Leg
Schalke v Manchester United

Thursday 28 April
SBS ONE
4.30am (aest) LIVE - Semi-final 1st Leg
Real Madrid v Barcelona

SBS TWO
8.30pm Replay - Semi-final 1st Leg
Real Madrid v Barcelona



PREMIER LEAGUE LIVE
Wed Apr 20 Newcastle v Manchester United 4.40 am
Thu Apr 21 Chelsea v Birmingham 4.40 am
Thu Apr 21 Tottenham v Arsenal 4.40 am
Sat Apr 23 Manchester United v Everton 9.40 pm
Sat Apr 23 Liverpool v Birmingham 11.55 pm
Sat Apr 23 Blackpool v Newcastle 11.55 pm Viewers Choice
Sat Apr 23 Sunderland v Wigan 11.55 pm Viewers Choice
Sat Apr 23 Tottenham v West Brom 11.55 pm Viewers Choice
Sat Apr 23 Wolves v Fulham 11.55 pm Viewers Choice
Sun Apr 24 Chelsea v West Ham 2.25 am
Sun Apr 24 Aston Villa v Stoke 5.00 am (DELAY)
Mon Apr 25 Bolton v Arsenal 12.55 am
Tue Apr 26 Blackburn v Manchester City 4.55 am

ASIAN CHAMPIONS LEAGUE LIVE
Tue Apr 19 Shanghai Shenhua v Sydney FC 9.55 pm
Wed Apr 20 Melbourne v Tianjin Teda 7.00 pm

ENGLISH FOOTBALL LEAGUE LIVE
Tue Apr 19 QPR v Derby 4.30 am
Sat Apr 23 Notts Forest v Leicester 2.00 am
Sat Apr 23 Leeds v Reading 4.30 am
Sun Apr 24 Cardiff v QPR 6.30 am (DELAY)



The Futbol Town Show
Every Tuesday 7pm

Extra Time
Magazine Show
Every Tuesday 7.30pm

SMFC TV
Channel 31
Every Wed 7pm

The Green Gully Football Show
Every Saturday 10.30am



Tuesday 19th April
12:30 am Bundesliga Weekly Highlights Matchday 30
05:00 am Serie A Matchday 33: Catania V Lazio
12:00 pm Arsenal TV Arsenal V Liverpool
11:00 pm World Football News

Wednesday 20th April
04:00 am Serie A (Rpt) Matchday 33: Roma V Palermo
06:00 am The Serie A Highlights Show
06:30 am Bundesliga Weekly Highlights (Rpt)
07:30 am World Football News (Rpt)

Thursday 21st April
02:00 am Arsenal TV (Rpt) Arsenal V Liverpool
05:00 am The Serie A Highlights Show (Rpt) Matchday 33

Friday 22nd April
04:00 am Serie A (Rpt) Matchday 33: Catania V Lazio

Saturday 23rd April
04:30 am The Serie A Highlights Show (Rpt) Matchday 33
05:00 am Bundesliga Weekly Highlights (Rpt) Matchday 30
06:00 am Arsenal TV Tottenham Hotspur V Arsenal

Sunday 24th April
02:00 am LIVE Serie A Matchday 34: Brescia V A.C Milan
11:00 pm LIVE Serie A Matchday 34: Palermo V Napoli

Tuesday 26th April
11:00 pm World Football News
11:30 pm Arsenal TV Bolton Wanderers V Arsenal

Wednesday 27th April
02:30 am Liverpool TV Liverpool V Birmingham
06:00 am The Serie A Highlights Show Matchday 34
06:30 am Bundesliga Weekly Highlights Matchday 31
07:30 am World Football News (Rpt)



Monday 18th April
5:10am Portuguese Liga
Porto v Sporting LIVE
9:15am Serie A Parma v Inter Delay
11:00am Serie A
Chievo v Bologna Delay
12:45pm Serie A
Fiorentina v Juventus Delay
2:30pm Bundesliga
Bayern Munich v Leverkusen Delay

Tuesday 19th April
0:30am Serie A Napoli v Udinese
6:45am Serie A Cesena v Bari Delay
10:15am Bundesliga
Dortmund v Freiburg Delay
12:00pm SPL
Hibernian v Hamilton Delay
1:45pm Serie A
Genoa v Brescia Delay
5:15pm Eredivisie
Heracles v PSV Delay

Wednesday 20th April
9:10am Copa Libertadores
Internacional v Emelec LIVE
3:30pm Coppa Italia
Roma v Inter Delay

Thursday 21st April
4:25am SPL Kilmarnock v Celtic LIVE
7:00am Coppa Italia AC Milan v Palermo Delay
8:45am Setanta Sports Cup Dundalk v Cliftonville Delay
1:15pm Setanta Sports Cup
Shamrock Rovers v Sligo Delay

Friday 22nd April
3:30am Serie A Lecce v Cagliari Delay

Saturday 23rd April
4:25am Bundesliga
Freiburg v Hannover LIVE
2:55pm J-League Kawasaki Frontale v Vegalta Sendai LIVE
9:25pm SPL Teams TBC LIVE

Sunday 24th April
2:25am Bundesliga Monchengladbach v Dortmund LIVE
4:55am Serie A
Juventus v Catania LIVE
7:00am Serie A Roma v Chievo Delay
8:45am League of Ireland
Sligo v Bohemians Delay
3:45pm Serie A
Udinese v Parma Delay
5:30pm Serie A
Palermo v Napoli Delay
9:25pm SPL Rangers v Celtic LIVE
11:25pm Bundesliga
Wolfsburg v Cologne LIVE

Monday 25th April
1:25am Bundesliga
Nuremberg v Mainz LIVE
6:45am Serie A
Bologna v Cesena Delay
8:30am Serie A Genoa v Lecce Delay
10:15am Serie A
Bari v Sampdoria Delay
5:15pm Eredivisie Feyenoord v PSV Delay

Tuesday 26th April
2:15am Blue Square Premier
Kidderminster v Fleetwood Delay
5:15pm Serie A
Cagliari v Fiorentina Delay

Wednesday 27th April
10:55am Copa Libertadores
Round of 16 LIVE

Thursday 28th April
8:40am Copa Libertadores
Round of 16 LIVE
10:55am Copa Libertadores Round of 16 LIVE

Friday 29th April
10:55am Copa Libertadores
Round of 16 LIVE
3:55pm J-League Cerezo Osaka v Abirex Nigita LIVE



Global Football Show
Jacob Kagi and Ian Hooper
discuss local, national and international football every Thursday night from 7.30-9pm on WA's SportFM 91.3.

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SYDNEY CRASH TO KASHIMA

By David Manuca

Sydney FC’s chances of making it to the next phase of the Asian Champions League suffered a massive blow as they succumbed to a 3-0 defeat to a much stronger Kashima Antlers side at the SFS on Wednesday night.

The loss was Sydney’s first home loss in the Asian Champions League and their first loss out of three games in their current campaign.

It was also Kashima’s first victory in 2011 and it will have brought some joy to their fans back in Japan who have suffered a horrible past month.

The win lifted Kashima to five points from three games, level with group leaders Suwon Bluewings of South Korea.

Takuya Nozawa gave the Japanese side the lead just before half-time with Fellyppe Gabriel doubling their advantage early in the second half before Shinzo Koroki added a third in injury time sealing off an impressive performance by Kashima.

Sydney were missing their marquee man Nick Carle and other forward David Williams lacking any real

cutting edge up front, failing to create many chances throughout the match.

Sydney manager Vitezlav Lavicka admitted the quality of the Kashima squad was the difference with the game over early in the second half.

“We started the game well, we played organised, but the game was decided late in the first half and early in the second half,” Lavicka said. “The boys worked hard, but quality was the difference.”

The first fourty odd minutes of the match was quite dour with neither side creating any real goal scoring opportunities besides a half-chance to Sydney striker Bruno Cazarine.

Shannon Cole directed in a cross from the wing in which Cazarine connected with but he couldn’t direct his header on target.

The game was brought to life four minutes before half-time when Shinzo Koroki beat Stephan Keller for pace and then turned the defender to find Gabriel whose initial effort was saved by Liam Reddy but Nozawa was on hand to tap in the rebound.

Sydney would have liked to



Kashima Rejoice after Fellyppe Gabriel puts the game beyond doubt. Photo: GEOFF JONES

go into the break with the scores level but it wasn’t to be. They had a chance a minute after Kashima scored but Mark Bridge’s couldn’t turn in Rhyan Grant’s shot with the ball sailing over the bar. Stephan Keller had to be replaced at half-time after an injury to his ankle late in the first half with Lavicka bringing on Andy Durante. Sydney came out at half-time needing a goal to get them back into the game but unfortunately for them it

was Kashima who doubled their advantage six minutes in to the second half. Nozawa turned provider this time sending in a perfect cross to the back-post where an un-marked Gabriel made no mistake with his header giving Kashima a two goal lead. Kashima were content with their advantage sitting back for most of the rest of the second half before they eventually added a third in stoppage time thanks to a goal from Koroki.

In the other game played Kashima’s J-League counterparts, Nagoya Grampus, thrashed Al Ain of the United Arab Emirates 4-0 in Japan. Mu Kanazaki scored a brace in the first half before Al Ain’s Brahima Keita scored an own goal to make it 3-0 before Jungo Fujimoto completed the rout in the 77th minute. Matchday 4 begins tomorrow night with Kashima hosting South Korea’s Suwon Bluewings whilst Syd-

ACL Details

Match Detail:

Sydney FC: 0
Kashima Antlers FC: 3 (NOZAWA 41', GABRIEL 51', KOROKI 90+3')

Sydney FC line-up: 1. Liam REDDY (gk), 3. Stephan KELLER (5. Andrew DURANTE 46'), 6. Hirofumi MORIYASU (26. Joel CHIANESE 81'), 8. Stuart MUSIALIK (c), 9. Bruno CAZARINE, 12. Shannon COLE, 17. Matthew JURMAN, 19. Mark BRIDGE, 21. Scott JAMIESON, 23. Rhyan GRANT, 24. Dimitri PETRATOS (11. Kofi DANNING 57')

Substitutes Not Used: 7. Brendan GAN, 20. Ivan NECEVSKI (gk), 25. Nathan SHERLOCK, 27. Jared LUM.

Yellow Cards: Nil.
Red Cards: Nil.
Goals: Nil.

Kashima Antlers FC line-up: 3. Daiki IWAMASA, 5. ALEX (30. Yuzo TASHIRO 90+4'), 6. Koji NAKATA, 7. Toru ARAIBA, 8. Takuya NOZAWA, 11. Fellyppe GABRIEL, 13. Shinzoh Kohrogi KOROKI, 15. Takeshi AOKI, 18. CARLAO (10. Masashi MOTOYAMA 65'), 21. Hitoshi SOGAHATA (gk), 40. Mitsuo OGASAWARA (c).

Substitutes Not Used: 1. Tetsu SUGIYAMA (gk), 9. Yuya OSAKO, 14. Chikashi MASUDA, 23. Gen SHOJI, 25. Yasushi ENDO.

Yellow Cards: 10. Masashi MOTOYAMA 85'.
Red Cards: Nil.
Goals: 8. Takuya NOZAWA 41', 11. Fellyppe GABRIEL 52', 13. Shinzoh Kohrogi KOROKI 90+3'.

Referee: Ali Hamad ALBADAWWI (United Arab Emirates)
Crowd: 7 320 at the Sydney Football Stadium, Sydney.

Group H	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 BLUEWINGS (KOR)	3	1	2	0	5	1	4	5
2 KASHIMA ANTLEERS (JPN)	3	1	2	0	4	1	3	5
3 SYDNEY FC (AUS)	3	0	2	1	1	4	-3	2
4 SHANGHAI SHENHUA (CHN)	3	0	2	1	1	5	-4	2

SUWON BLUEWINGS v KASHIMA ANTLEERS 1 – 1
SYDNEY FC v SHANGHAI SHENHUA 1-1



Kashima's Mitsuo Ogasawara lines up a shot as Mark Bridge closes in. Photo: GEOFF JONES



Sydney FC's Rhyan Grant leads the way as Toru Araiba gives chase. Photo: GEOFF JONES

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New Town Eagles

Tasmania's New Town Eagles FC of the Southern Premier League line up prior to their 50th anniversary game against Tilford Zebras last week. The match finished 3-3.

Back Row (L-R): Adam Bates, Simon Strang, Michael Anderson, Alex Gordon, Nick Ferrall

Front Row (L-R) L Adam McKeown, Andrew Clark, Ben Whitehall, Nathan Pitchford, Mark Page, Juma Barabara



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FULL NAME: Luke Mark Klimek
BIRTHPLACE: Queen Elizabeth Hospital
BIRTH DATE: 28/03/89
HEIGHT: 172 cm
WEIGHT: 71.5 kg
MARRIED: Nope
CAR: Toyota Corolla
NICKNAME: Lukey, Kuba
PREVIOUS CLUBS: None
REPRESENTATIVE HONOURS: None as yet
CHILDHOOD FOOTBALL HERO: Zinadine Zidane
FAVOURITE O/S PLAYER: Cesc Fabregas
FAVOURITE HAL PLAYER: Marcos Flores
FAVOURITE FORMER SOCCEROO: Mark Viduka
FAVOURITE CURRENT SOCCEROO: Robbie Kruse
MOST MEMORABLE MATCH AS A PLAYER: Premier League final last year against Modbury.
MOST MEMORABLE MATCH AS A FAN: Sydney FC vs Adelaide United 4-1 - Sydney's Benito Carbone - never seen someone destroy an opposition like he did that night.
MOST MEMORABLE GOAL YOU'VE SCORED: The winning goal in last years Premier League final.
EARLIEST FOOTBALL MEMORY: Playing football with my brother in our backyard
FUNNIEST MOMENT IN FOOTBALL: Team mate two footing bench during an attempt to tackle a player
BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT: Getting relegated from the Super League in 2008.
WORST INJURY: Breaking my ankle against Cambeltown in 2008.
MOST DIFFICULT OPPONENT: Richie Alagich
FAVOURITE AWAY GROUND: Adelaide Galaxy
SUPERSTITIONS: Always leave the change rooms last on game days
TYPICAL MATCH DAY MEAL: Usually a couple of sandwiches (something light)
WHAT ARE YOUR STRENGTHS: Speed, fitness
WHAT ARE YOUR WEAKNESSES: Heading, defending
FAVOURITE TEAM WHEN GROWING UP: Leeds United
FAVOURITE OTHER SPORTS: Basketball
FAVOURITE OTHER SPORTSPERSON: George St.Pierre
FAVOURITE FOODS: Anything Polish
FAVOURITE ACTOR/ACTRESS: Morgan Freeman, Scarlett Johansson
HOBBIES: Gym, beach, going out
FAVOURITE HOLIDAY RESORT: Poland
FAVOURITE NIGHTSPOT: Heaven
IDEAL DATE: Charlize Theron
FAVOURITE TV SHOWS: Jersey Shore
FAVOURITE MUSIC: House, Trance
FAVOURITE FILM: Coach Carter
LAST SOCCER SHIRT YOU BOUGHT: Wisla Krakow home kit
FUNNIEST RUMOUR YOU'VE HEARD ABOUT YOURSELF: That I got signed by a First Division team in Poland.
BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON CAREER: My Dad
BIGGEST DRAG IN SOCCER: Watching teams play boring football
FOOTBALL AMBITION: To be the best I can possibly be.
WHICH PERSON IN THE WORLD WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO MEET? Michael Jordan.
YOUR TIP FOR THIS YEAR'S HAL: Brisbane Roar
YOUR TIP FOR THIS YEAR'S SUPER LEAGUE: Adelaide City



PHOTO: ADAM BUTLER

LONDON CALLING



With Adam North in the UK

And so, as predicted by many, Tottenham Hotspur crashed out of the Champions League this week at the quarter final stage. Right now they are still not assured of a place in next year's competition, with fourth place possibly being out of their reach. So what is next for the white side of North London?

It was indeed no surprise that Spurs lost their Champions League Quarter Final against Real Madrid. Over the two legs Real were much the better of the English side, and the fact that Tottenham failed to even register a goal against the giants of European football shows that they were out-classed from the first whistle to the last.

In the league, Tottenham currently lie fifth, three points behind their main rivals for fourth spot Manchester City. It may be true that City have been abundantly inconsistent this season, so it's difficult to predict anything where they are concerned, but it looks like City will probably hold on to fourth spot, and with it a place in the Champions League next season.

Spurs on the other hand may even struggle to get into the Europa League, as their run in looks alarmingly tough. They have to take on rivals Arsenal in their next game, and are still to face Manchester City, Chelsea and Liverpool away from home, as well as facing three other teams that are all fighting for their Premier League survival. To me at least it looks like they will not be playing any European football next season.

From a revenue standpoint, a lack of Champions League football is of course a massive blow, and if given the opportunity Spurs would rip your hand off if they were offered fourth spot. However I'm not quite sure that the same could be said if you offered them a Europa League spot. The former UEFA Cup is undoubtedly still an important trophy to many clubs, yet I think giving it a miss may actually work to Spurs' benefit.

The constant grind of European football, which often increases a team's schedule so that they are playing a game every few days as oppose to once a week, is difficult to cope with. By missing out on the Europa League Tottenham will be able to concentrate more on achieving Champions League

status once again, and possibly even pushing higher up the table into third second, with a slim chance of even challenging for the title.

So if we assume that Spurs will not make it into Europe at all next season, what does the future have in store for the club, it's players and it's fans?

Something that has to be sorted out over the summer is the fact that there are simply too many players at the club. Harry Redknapp, as I have said many times, is a manager who is constantly trying to bring in new faces to improve his squad. Whether or not that is a good thing is debateable, but what is completely definite is that before he brings anyone else in he really needs to start culling players from the Spurs dressing room. For example, Spurs have six different centre backs who could all make legitimate claims at being first choice, along with four full backs and another three young defenders looking to break through. And that's before looking into the reserves and the youth team.

Plus there are the likes of Robbie Keane, who has hardly played for the club since re-joining. Redknapp needs to get rid of several players before he can start bringing in a few new faces, which unquestionably does need to be done.

Interestingly, although Spurs have once again shown this season that neither their nor Redknapp's major strength is in defence, it is actually in attack that the most drastic changes need to be made. The three main strikers that Tottenham have utilised this season, Defoe, Crouch and Pavlyuchenko, have between them been close to awful. They have simply not scored enough goals to make Spurs a viable threat to the top teams this season.

What Redknapp should be doing is getting rid of the underperforming Russian, but keep Defoe and Crouch. The lanky Crouch has once again shown that even though goals wise he is not a top striker, he does cause problems for defences, as he did against Milan both home and away. Defoe is a striker who lives on confidence, and I think given the time over the summer to recover, he could well rediscover the form which made many believe that he should have been picked ahead of Wayne

What's next for Tottenham Hotspur FC?



Spurs got a great taste of UCL football this season. But what's it going to take for them to be serious challengers of silverware?

Rooney going into the World Cup with England.

The man that I believe Tottenham should be looking to acquire over the summer to replace their below par strikers is Sunderland and Ghana's Asamoah Gyan. Here is a man who thoroughly impressed on the biggest stage of them all for his country, and who has shown that his natural talents of hard work, determination and desire have made him well suited to the Premier League. If Spurs have a little cash to spend, and word coming from their boardroom suggests there may be some, then they would do a lot worse than to force Sunderland into selling Gyan to them.

Gyan would bring goals to the side, and he would be able to play alongside any other striker they wish to stick up there, as well as being able to plough the line on his own. Against England only a few weeks ago the Ghanaian poster boy was by far the best player on the pitch for either side, and capped his performance off with a tremendous solo goal. I really believe that Gyan could turn Tottenham into a better side quite easily.

Along with some of their strik-

ers, I also believe that Tottenham should be trying to offload Rafael Van Der Vaart. This may be a surprise to some, but for me he is the epitome of what is wrong with Spurs as a team and Redknapp as a manager. Here is a player that excelled in his first months with the North London side, yet who has tailed off into insignificance. Against Madrid, his former employer who in his own words he was desperate to do well against, he was completely absent. And this should be no surprise, because that is why other clubs have either passed on him or have given up after offering him a chance to perform.

Of course every fan likes these type of players, but let us think about how many of them are currently first teamers for United, Arsenal or Chelsea. Maybe Arshavin at Arsenal, Berbatov at United, Anelka at Chelsea, and those three put in more effort than the Dutchman. Tottenham must be more determined to shut teams out if they are going to get better, and one way to do that is by removing Mr Van Der Vaart.

Tottenham also have to make changes at the back. Injuries have severely hampered their league

performances this season, but unfortunately many of these injuries were to players who have had many injuries over their careers. As painful as it may be for some fans to lose them, players such as Ledley King have no place at a club of the stature of Tottenham Hotspur. Spurs need a settled back four, just as Chelsea, United and Arsenal do when everyone is fit, yet they seem to change it by necessity or design far too much. A big, solid, first choice centre back, such as perhaps Gary Cahill at Bolton, should be brought in to partner Dawson.

Much like their North London neighbours Arsenal, Spurs could also do with a new goalkeeper. After proving many of his critics wrong, Gomes has actually done well at Tottenham, yet his gaff against Madrid this week showed that he is still a liability, especially in big games. A top keeper would not only help them in terms of an individual performance, but also breathe confidence into their whole back line.

Player wise, I don't believe Tottenham are that far off being serious challengers for the league title, let alone just Champions League qualification. What re-

ally needs to change is the whole mind set of the club. Whether Redknapp is the man to do it is doubtful, but what Spurs must do is to stop thinking of themselves as not being on a par with the likes of United and Arsenal. This may not be something which is easily fixed, but Tottenham have to now have higher expectations of themselves. It's often said that the aura of Manchester United can be enough to beat teams, and Spurs have to start injecting some of the same swagger into their own performances. This is exactly what Mourinho brought to Chelsea when he came in; he turned them from contenders into champions.

In conclusion, Tottenham really aren't that far off being one of the top two or three sides in England. Next season, since they may not be in Europe, they have to make a serious push for Champions League qualification, and they have to change their mind set to being serious challengers who aren't just happy with being in Europe; they should believe they can win. If that happens, along with some astute transfer activity from Redknapp, Tottenham may become a real force in English football.

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LONDON CALLING



With Leroy Robinson in the UK

So the dust has settled on the UCL quarter finals, and Chelsea and Tottenham Hotspur have fallen by the wayside. Losing to Real Madrid was no disgrace for Spurs, and although Chelsea couldn't overcome their first leg defeat at Stamford Bridge, the tie was finely poised much of the way. A penalty claim denied and a missed chance by Lampard are the fine margins in which professional sports operate. So what does the future hold for Chelsea? In short what do they need to do in order to turn these types of defeats into victories? There's no crystal ball involved, just good old fashioned football know-how.

Don't Panic

Anyone who has watched the film or read the book 'The Hitch-hiker's Guide to the Galaxy' knows that the number one rule when things go pear-shaped is not to panic.

This is the number one advice that should be given to the Roman Abramovich's of this world. Knee-jerk reactions from armchair pundits are all well and good, but it's easy to make judgements from an armchair.

In general, the press has agreed that Carlo Ancelotti, as punishment for one mediocre season, will get fired.

Yes, Chelsea have had a bad season by their high standards – especially given their blazing start in the Premier League – but are they really that far off being European or English champions? Remember, Jose Mourinho couldn't even get them into a UCL final, whereas much maligned Avram Grant could.

The warped reasoning of the media centres on the handling of record signing Fernando Torres, and the fact that one trophy-less season at Stamford Bridge is deemed a hanging offence.

Is it really Carlo's fault that Torres couldn't find the goal even if it was described to him? Maybe he's misjudged the player. Torres left Anfield with injury concerns and was low on confidence, so is it any surprise this has shown up in his performances? Perhaps the biggest mistake Carlo has made is showing too much faith in FT. But then again, you can't pay £50m for a player and leave him on the bench – except he should have on Tuesday, according to the media.

I caught the tail-end of a football show on ESPN earlier this week. It's a very good show but, as be-

fits the media, there's a tendency to make certain controversial statements for the sake of it. One such statement was that Chelsea needed a complete overhaul: cue the auto-mobile analogies.

The suggestion that the Chelsea car is now knackered and needs a new engine is the standard reaction to a bitter defeat. But hold on. Let's remember that this squad, now sans Joe Cole, won the double last year. Also, let's remember the number one rule for Chelsea, that's right don't panic.

There certainly must be some changes at The Bridge but a more measured approach would be sensible and, I believe, lead to more success. Aside from 'don't panic', there are a number of other rules Chelsea must follow.

Say Yes to Change, Say No to Change

Anyone who thinks sweeping changes to a squad will bear instant fruit is dreaming. What proof is there? Two words: Manchester City.

Yes, they are FA Cup finalists, but if they do finally win a trophy it would have taken over two years and cost nearly as much as the new Olympic Stadium in London.

Is that really the type of return Roman Abramovich wants? Yes, City are doing it from scratch, but they have proved that things do not change overnight, especially when there is a change of coach.

Look at how the expensive presence of Torres seems to have caused a great deal of instability to the coaches' position and that of Didier Drogba. Those in favour of a complete overhaul should remember that new players usually need at least a season to bed themselves in. A case in point: Samir Nasri. By all means make changes but only make those changes that are necessary right now.

Make a Decision

It doesn't matter if Roman Abramovich bought Torres with Ancelotti's consent or not. What matters is that he is there and he isn't going anywhere. He is also the best striker Chelsea has, so it would be crazy not to treat him that way. However, there are fundamental decisions that need to be made.

Do you build the team around him and cross your fingers that he'll come good? You see, Torres is at his best when running into channels and receiving killer passes into the spaces between

Are Chelsea Nothing But Losers?



Chelsea's Didier Drogba and Roman Abramovich in happier days after winning the FA Cup. Blues fans will be hoping that Stamford Bridge will not be a bridge too far for further success.

defenders. He doesn't work well in a 4-3-3 or with another out and out striker. That means bye-bye Didier Drogba, and thanks for some wonderful memories. It also means that Nicolas Anelka, a great player against the Bolton's and Blackburn's of the world, should get less game time.

If they keep FT then, in many respects, there does need to be an overhaul: in the formation. The problem with Chelsea is their current squad has been reared on the 4-3-3 formations of Jose Mourinho and now Ancelotti. This is nothing that a change to 4-4-2 and a tweaking of personnel cant put right.

Despite the criticism levelled at him, Luis Nani helped make the difference, and he is exactly the type of player Chelsea needs – one that can do something unpredict-

able and can commit defenders.

Remember, that one upon a time Chelsea had Joe Cole and Arjen Robben. However, at the present they have players who are more like athletes than footballers - Essien, Obi Mikel and Ramires, with the obvious exception being Frank Lampard. These guys may run all day but they don't commit defenders and they don't do anything special to win a match whereas Nani is like hot sauce: you may like him one minute and the next he's just too much for you and you hate him!

This brings the subject nicely onto big Frank. This has been a dreadful season by his standards. Last year he and Didier Drogba were lethal in the league. I fear though that we have seen the last of them as real forces in the league. Lampard is only effective when he has

players behind him doing the donkey work, allowing him to receive the ball from the midfield two and maraud forward without much defensive responsibility.

This is great when, like last year, they were crushing all-comers. This year, partly due to injury, he's looked laboured and at times against Man United he picked the ball up way too deep. Can Chelsea really afford to play two such uncreative players like Ramires and Essien in the hope that Frank can score his quota of goals?

The time really has come for Chelsea to get a midfield play maker. Not the overpriced and injury prone Kaka, but one like Javier Pastore, who can play between attack and defence, create goals and get assists, just like Frank was doing last year.

This type of player, along with

a couple of wide players, is all Chelsea need. But I can see the Chelsea supremo saying 'Javier who?' and deciding that he wants Kaka for his Stamford Bridge mantelpiece.

The good news for the blues is that their defence is in good hands. Ashley Cole, John Terry, David Luiz and Jose Bosingwa, along with either Essien or Ramires as cover, still has plenty of mileage. So they really only need three players to once again take the league by storm. This would warrant a change in philosophy and might mean buying players to fit the system, rather than to flex the wallet in a vain attempt to impress with spending power, but only time will tell if the new coach is allowed to exercise his right to say no to Roman and buy the players he wants.



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Toure fires City into FA Cup final

Euro Wrap

Alex Luttrell

EPL
Day 33 of the English Premier League saw only half the usual amount of games with a predictable Chelsea win being the highlight.

The Sunday fixtures were missing the red and blue rivals of Manchester, who played off in the semi-final of the F.A. Cup. Meanwhile, Chelsea met West Bromwich at the Hawthorns and the Baggies, as expected went down to Ancelotti's men, 3-1.

The 3-1 scoreline in favour of Chelsea was provided by Drogha in the 22nd, Salomon Kalou in the 26th and Frank Lampard in the 45th. West Brom's heartache was made worse as they scored first through Peter Odemwingie.

At Goodison Park, Everton managed a 2-0 win over Blackburn, putting the blue of Liverpool within a point of their city rivals in the last spot for Europa qualifying. Goals from Leon Osman and Leighton Baines were enough to seal the win for the home side.

Elsewhere on Sunday morning, Wigan overcame Blackpool 3-1 away, West Ham lost to Aston Villa 2-1 and Birmingham was too good for Sunderland, winning 2-0 at home.

FA Cup Semi Final
Man United vs Man City
The lack of focus on the Premier League itself on Sunday morning could be put down to the illustrious encounter between city rivals Manchester United and Manchester City in the F.A Cup Semi Final at Wembley; and the blue of Manchester came out on top this time, 1-0.

Manchester City will play off against the winner of Stoke and Bolton on May 14th at Wembley in the F.A Cup Final thanks to a clinical Yaya Toure finish in the 52nd minute separating the rivals after Michael Carrick was caught holding the ball.



Toure kept his cool to score the winner and send Man City into the FA Cup Final for the first time in 30 years..

ing the ball.

With both sides lacking their potent target men, Wayne Rooney of United and Carlos Tevez of City, each team had no excuses that they were missing their central strikers. Rooney, who is suspended, and Tevez who sustained a hamstring injury last week in their 1-0 loss to Liverpool were both sorely missed. Sir Alex Ferguson played Dimitar Berbatov upfront over Javier Hernandez and Roberto Mancini opted for the height of Mario Balotelli over that of Edin Dzeko.

The match started off intensely with the ball bouncing off each end intently, before Berbatov squandered two chances as United came alive in the 15th minute. City began to settle in at about the half hour mark after a strike from Gareth Barry was saved by Edwin van der Saar.

City came out after the half with all guns blazing and were rewarded seven minutes in after Carrick was caught holding the ball by Toure on the edge of the United box after a horrid van der Saar goal kick.

Toure calmly dispossessed the England mid-fielder and capitalised. He strode into the 18-yard box and powered a low shot under the diving van der Saar.

United never gave up, however with Nani hitting the crossbar in the 65th from a curled free-kick over the wall. Joe Hart managed to tap the ball to the cross bar to safety. However, veteran midfielder Paul Scholes was dismissed in the 72nd after a straight red card from a crude, high boot according to referee Mike Dean.

In the closing stages there were a number of chances at both ends as the game was played out with intensity till the final whistle. City defended well after a series of defensive tactical changes from Mancini.

It ensured that City would be back next week to face either Stoke or Bolton at Wembley and that Ferguson's 10th F.A Cup semi final would end in misery for the red of Manchester.

Bundesliga
In the German Bundesliga the top three sides Borussia Dortmund, Bayern Munich and Bayer Leverkusen were absent from the Sunday morning fixtures.

The only games that made an impact on the top five Europe qualifying spots was a 0-0 draw between Hannover and Hamburger and Mainz's 1-0 victory over Monchengladbach.

Hannover's draw resulted in their leap over Munich for 24 hours into Champions League's third and final spot. Mainz's win puts them in fifth and a chance for Europa qualification.

Elsewhere on Sunday, Werder Bremen drew at home 1-1 with Champion's League semi-finalists Schalke. Wolfsburg drew with St. Pauli 2-2 at home, Hoffenheim overcame Frankfurt 1-0 at home, Koln lost to Stuttgart 3-1 at home and Nurnberg overcame Kaiserslautern, 2-0 away.

Ligue 1
In the French Ligue 1 on Sunday morning, Lille was the only top

three side to play, with Marseille and Lyon both playing Monday morning.

Lille met Bordeaux at home and a 1-1 draw was not exactly a desirable result for the league leaders. Goals from Sow in the 58th for Lille and Savic in the 76th for Bordeaux were the way the encounter turned out.

If Marseille and Lyon each win their Monday games they will go within a point and three points of the leaders, respectively.

Elsewhere, Lens drew 1-1 with Stade Brest at home, Nice overcame Monaco 3-2 at home in an exciting tug of war, Lorient defeated Rennes away 2-1, causing Rennes to lose ground on the top three as they sit precariously in fourth.

Saint-Etienne defeated Nancy 2-1 at home, Sochaux overcame Caen 3-2 at home in another intense encounter and Auxerre defeated Toulouse 1-0 away.

Serie A
In Italy overnight the two games that mattered in the title race for the Scudetto closed off any doubts of who will be the eventual winners for 2011.

AC Milan hosted Sampdoria at the San Siro in hope of putting the championship to bed and Inter Milan travelled to Parma in hope of resurrecting their title challenge.

AC Milan was successful in their goal thanks to putting three in the net in 3-0 romping of Sampdoria. This goal was made even more successful with Inter losing 2-0 to Parma. The win means that Milan go eight points clear of Inter who sit in third spot with virtually no hope of regaining top spot.

Goals from Clarence Seedorf, Antonio Cassano and Robinho were enough to seal the win, and possibly the title, for AC Milan. Napoli is now the only obstacle for Milan in the title race that is six points adrift of the leaders in second.

Parma's 2-0 win over Inter was thanks to goals from ex-Juventus duo Sebastian Giovinco and Amauri.

In the other game on Sunday morning Roma lost 3-2 to Palermo in a game that had three goals scored in the last six minutes.

Results

Barclays Premier League
Birmingham 2-0 Sunderland
Blackpool 1-3 Wigan
Everton 2-0 Blackburn
West Brom 1-3 Chelsea
West Ham 1-2 Aston Villa

The FA Cup
Man City 1-0 Man Utd

Npower Championship
Bristol City 0-1 Ipswich
Burnley 2-1 Swansea
Cardiff 3-0 Portsmouth
Coventry 2-1 Millwall
Crystal Palace 1-2 Scunthorpe
Hull 3-1 Doncaster
Leeds 2-2 Watford
Middlesbrough 1-1 Barnsley
Preston 3-1 Sheff Utd
Reading 3-1 Leicester

Npower League One
Carlisle 4-1 Colchester
Charlton 0-1 Huddersfield
Exeter 2-1 Leyton Orient
Notts County 0-2 Bournemouth
Peterborough 2-1 Plymouth
Rochdale 0-1 Brentford
Sheff Wed 2-0 Hartlepool
Southampton 1-0 Bristol Rovers
Swindon 0-1 MK Dons
Tranmere 2-0 Dag & Red
Walsall 1-3 Brighton
(Brighton are champions)
Yeovil 1-1 Oldham

Npower League Two
Accrington Stanley 0-0 Oxford Utd
Burton Albion 2-0 Cheltenham
Bury 2-0 Barnet
Chesterfield 2-1 Macclesfield
Crewe 1-1 Lincoln City
Gillingham 1-1 Morecambe
Rotherham 0-0 Hereford
Shrewsbury 2-0 Stockport
Stevenage 2-2 Rushden & Diamonds
Torquay 0-0 Port Vale
Wycombe 2-2 Northampton

Clydesdale Bank Premier League
Inverness CT 1-1 Hearts
Rangers 2-1 St Mirren

Blue Square Bet Premier
Eastbourne Boro 1-1 Kidderminster
(Eastbourne are relegated)
Fleetwood Town 3-1 Altrincham
Forest Green 1-1 Cambridge Utd
Gateshead 2-2 Rushden & Diamonds
Grimsby 2-2 Bath City
Hayes & Yeading 3-2 Darlington
Histon 0-4 AFC Wimbledon
Mansfield 0-0 Luton
Newport County 5-0 Barrow
Southport 0-4 Crawley Town
Wrexham 2-0 Kettering
York 1-2 Tamworth

Scottish Cup
Motherwell 3-0 St Johnstone

Scottish First Division
Cowdenbeath 1-2 Falkirk
Dunfermline 6-1 Queen of South
Morton 1-3 Dundee
Partick Thistle 1-1 Ross County
Stirling 1-2 Raith Rovers

Scottish Second Division
Airdrie Utd 2-1 Dumbarton
East Fife 1-1 Stenhousemuir
Forfar 3-1 Alloa
Livingston 0-0 Ayr
Peterhead 1-1 Brechin

Scottish Third Division
Annan Athletic 2-3 Berwick
Arbroath 2-2 Queen's Park
East Stirling 1-2 Albion
Elgin 0-1 Clyde
Montrose 3-2 Stranraer

EPL

	P	GD	Pts
1 Man Utd	32	38	69
2 Arsenal	31	32	62
3 Chelsea	32	32	61
4 Man City	32	20	56
5 Tottenham	31	8	53
6 Liverpool	32	7	48
7 Everton	33	6	47
8 Bolton	32	3	43
9 Aston Villa	33	-12	40
10 Newcastle	32	1	39
11 West Brom	33	-15	39
12 Fulham	32	1	38
13 Stoke	32	-3	38
14 Birmingham	32	-10	38
15 Sunderland	33	-12	38
16 Blackburn	33	-14	35
17 Wigan	33	-21	34
18 Blackpool	33	-22	33
19 West Ham	33	-19	32
20 Wolves	32	-20	32

Bundesliga

	P	GD	Pts
1 Borussia Dortmund	29	41	66
2 Bayer Leverkusen	29	24	61
3 Hannover 96	30	2	54
4 Bayern Munich	29	26	52
5 Mainz	30	7	48
6 Nuremberg	30	7	46
7 Hamburg	30	-1	43
8 SC Freiburg	29	-3	41
9 TSG Hoffenheim	30	3	40
10 Schalke 04	30	1	40
11 Werder Bremen	30	-16	35
12 Cologne	30	-17	35
13 FC Kaiserslautern	30	-8	34
14 VfB Stuttgart	30	-3	33
15 Eintracht Frankfurt	30	-11	33
16 Wolfsburg	30	-10	29
17 St Pauli	30	-21	29
18 Borussia M'gladbach	30	-21	26

Cologne 1-3 VfB Stuttgart
FC Kaiserslautern 0-2 Nuremberg
Hamburg 0-0 Hannover 96
TSG Hoffenheim 1-0 Eintracht Frankfurt
Werder Bremen 1-1 Schalke 04
Wolfsburg 2-2 St Pauli
Mainz 1-0 Borussia M'gladbach

Serie A

	P	GD	Pts
1 AC Milan	33	36	71
2 Napoli	32	22	65
3 Inter Milan	33	21	63
4 Lazio	32	12	57
5 Udinese	32	23	56
6 Roma	33	4	53
7 Juventus	32	10	51
8 Palermo	33	-4	47
9 Cagliari	32	1	43
10 Fiorentina	32	3	42
11 Bologna	32	-8	40
12 Genoa	32	-6	39
13 Chievo	32	-4	36
14 Catania	32	-11	36
15 Parma	33	-13	35
16 Lecce	32	-18	34
17 Sampdoria	33	-14	32
18 Cesena	32	-16	31
19 Brescia	32	-12	30
20 Bari	32	-27	21
AC Milan 3-0 Sampdoria			
Parma 2-0 Inter Milan			
Roma 2-3 Palermo			

Playing overnight
Catania v Lazio
Cesena v Bari
Chievo v Bologna
Fiorentina v Juventus
Genoa v Brescia
Lecce v Cagliari
Napoli v Udinese

SPL

	P	GD	Pts
1 Rangers	32	40	77
2 Celtic	31	48	76
3 Hearts	33	16	61
4 Dundee Utd	32	7	52
5 Kilmarnock	32	10	47
6 Motherwell	32	-7	44
7 Inverness CT	33	1	38
8 Hibernian	32	-15	36
9 St Johnstone	33	-21	34
10 Aberdeen	33	-20	31
11 St Mirren	33	-23	28
12 Hamilton	32	-36	16

Asian Scene with Daniel Iaconis

Korea
Round 6 of the K-League kicked off Friday night with Suwon going top of the table after beating cellar dwellers Gangwon 2-0 at the Suwon World Cup Stadium.

The win came thanks to goals on either side of half-time by Captain Mato Neretljak and Korean international Choi Sung-kuk.

Neretljak scored just before half-time in the 44th minute off a Choi set-piece, with the Captain having the simple task of nodding the ball in on the far post after being left unattended. It was Choi's turn to celebrate in the 56th minute when the Korean playmaker was played into the penalty area and given enough space and time to put the result out of doubt.

Saturday saw a new league-leader emerge, with the Pohang Steelers knocking Suwon off their perch thanks to a 3-1 win away to Jeju United. Man of the match Hwang Jin-song opened the scoring for the visitors in the 12th minute and it wasn't long until Pohang were 2-0 up thanks to Noh Byung-joon's effort in the 30th minute.

Jeju got one back thanks to Kim In-ho just after half-time but the game was put out of reach when Hwang scored his second from the penalty spot in the 73rd minute. Elsewhere on Saturday Daejeon Citizen gave up a great opportunity to go top of the table drawing 0-0 away to Sangju Sangmu, Jeonbuk Motors put on a football clinic embarrassing Gwangju



Pohang Steelers take top spot in the K-League after defeating Jeju United 3-1 away from home.

6-1 at home, Busan I'Park and Daegu played out an entertaining 2-2 draw while Seoul FC's poor start to the season continued with the reigning champs drawing 1-1 at home to Ulsan.

The round continues Sunday with Incheon United hosting Seongnam and Gyeongnam hosting the Chunnam Dragons with the home side looking to jump as high as third with a win.

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Sandy Displays Early Ascendancy

By Niki Cook

Sandringham maintained its place at the top of the Women’s Premier League ladder, playing twice in Round 3 for a midweek defeat and a weekend triumph. Bundoora United maintained its unbeaten start to the season, while Round 4 also produced victories for South Melbourne Women’s, VCL Country and Casey Comets. Once again, there were plenty of goals in the competition, with the six games in the round producing an impressive 27 goals.

Sandringham suffered its first defeat of the season on Wednesday night, as it went down 2-1 to the Emerging Athlete Program. All three goals came in the second half, with a Wednesday night game once again being decided by goals in the final ten minutes of the match. Sandringham’s goal came courtesy of an EAP own goal, but late strikes from Stephanie Magro in the 81st minute and a last gasp winner from Kariah White a minute from time helped the EAP to its third victory of the season. The EAP lies third on the ladder as a result, with nine points from four matches.

Box Hill United had strung together two consecutive victories with wins over the EAP and South Melbourne, but its mini run came to an end on Friday night against Bundoora United. The newly promoted start has had a stellar start to its inaugural WPL campaign, having now gone through its first four matches undefeated, and with Friday’s match producing its third victory. It snatched a last gasp 1-1 draw with Heidelberg on Monday night, with a last minute equaliser, but on Friday it went one better against the reigning premier, with a 2-1 victory. Both Bundoora goals came in the first half, with Erin Herd and Stephanie Oddo both scoring in a five minute burst either side of the half hour mark. Box Hill found the net in the second half, but was unable to find a second goal to earn a share of the points. Bundoora is the league’s only remaining undefeated team, with three wins and a draw from its four matches, and it sits second on the ladder on goal difference. Box Hill United is sixth with seven points.

South Melbourne Women’s notched its first victory of the season on Saturday night, ending Heidelberg United unbeaten start to the season in the process. United had started the season strongly with two wins and a draw in its opening three games, but it was held goalless for the first time the year as it suffered its first defeat. Jolene Miller put the home side ahead ten minutes before the interval, and that was how the score remained until the last minutes of the game, when the United keeper, Katie Neville, was sent off and Tiffany Eliadis slotted home the resultant penalty to double South’s advantage and make sure of the three points. The result means that Heidelberg slips to fifth on the ladder, while South climbs to eighth.

Altona City’s horror start to the season continued with a heavy defeat by VCL Country at HC Kim Reserve on Sunday. For the second consecutive week Altona conceded in the first minute, with Abigail Livingstone scoring for Country. Livingstone then doubled her tally in the eighteenth minute, giving Country a 2-0 lead which it maintained until half time. City rallied briefly after the interval with Kerri Little pulling a goal back in the 57th minute, but ten minutes later



Ashburton's Azize Erenli (right) and Sandringham's Paige Dodds battle for the ball. Christie Parton is ready to get involved. Photo: JOHN PUNSHON



Siennna Fogarty (Sandringham) stretches to interpt Amy D’Ortoenzio (Ashburton). Photo: JOHN PUNSHON

Livingstone restored the two goal advantage and completed her hat-trick. Goals from Zoe Scott in the 70th minute, and Elizabeth Watkins fifteen minutes from time rounded out a comfortable victory for Country, which now sits seventh on the ladder with five points from its five matches. Altona remains at the foot of the ladder, yet to register its first point.

Nicola Prins scored her second hat-trick in as many matches to help Casey Comets to its second consecutive victory, as it thumped Doncaster Rovers 5-1 at Comets Stadium on Sunday. Prins opened the scoring on the quarter hour, with Melissa Atherton doubling the advantage twenty minutes later. Casey pushed further ahead after the interval with Prins scoring in

the 54th and 58th minutes to complete another personal triumph, before Natalie Grubic scored the home side’s fifth thirteen minutes from time. Alexandra Amore scored a consolation effort for Rovers shortly before the full time whistle, but it was far too little too late for the WPL newcomer. After a mixed start Casey has shot up the table to fourth as a result of its two recent victories, with a tally of seven points. Doncaster remains tenth on the ladder with a solitary point, having conceded fifteen goals in its four matches to date.

A three goal blitz in the first half hour set Sandringham on its way to its fourth victory of the season, as it saw off Ashburton 5-2 at Ashburton Park. The visitor opened the scoring after four minutes, before doubling

its advantage seven minutes later, and adding a third on the half hour. Ashburton pulled a goal back on 35 minutes, but Sandringham restored its three goal cushion four minutes later to give it a comfortable 4-1 lead at the break. The home side again ate into Sandringham’s lead too early in the second period, but Sandringham again pulled away, scoring its fifth fifteen minutes from time. The win keeps Sandringham top of the WPL ladder with twelve points, and an extremely healthy goal difference, as it has found the net eighteen times in its five games so far. Ashburton lies ninth on the ladder, with four points.

Next weekend the WPL takes a break for Easter, with the action resuming on the following Wednesday when Casey Comets will be

looking to make it three wins in a row when it takes on the EAP at DISC in the opening match of Round 4.

Friday night sees Doncaster Rovers host South Melbourne Women’s at Anderson Park, while at Wembley Park Box Hill United meets Altona City. Bundoora United will be looking to extend its unbeaten run to five matches on Saturday, when it takes on Ashburton at Hillsview Recreation Reserve, while on Sunday Heidelberg United will look to return to winning ways when it clashes with VCL Country.

The final match of the round takes place on Monday night at Kingston Heath Soccer Complex, and features two of Round 4’s big scorers, Sandringham and Casey Comets.

WPL RESULTS
Rd 4: Sandringham SC 1 (Own Goal) Emerging Athlete Program 2 (S- Magro K White),
Box Hill United 1 Bundoora Utd 2 (E- Herd S Oddo),
South Melbourne Womens FC 2 (J Miller T Eliadis) Heidelberg Utd 0
Altona City 1 (K Little) VCL Country 5 (E- Watkins A Livingstone 3 Z Scott)
Casey Comets 5 Doncaster Rovers 1
Ashburton 2 Sandringham SC 5
Res: Rd 4: Box Hill United 3 Bundoora Utd 0, South Melbourne Womens FC 0 Heidelberg Utd 0, Casey Comets 7 Doncaster Rovers 0, Ashburton 1 Sandringham SC 3

WPL LADDER							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sandringham	5	4	0	1	18	6	12
Bundoora Utd	4	3	1	0	10	3	10
Emerging Ath	4	3	0	1	11	7	9
Casey Comets	4	2	1	1	10	5	7
Heidelberg Utd	4	2	1	1	7	5	7
Box Hill United	5	2	1	2	9	9	7
VCL Country	5	2	0	3	8	10	6
South Melb	4	1	2	1	4	4	5
Ashburton	5	1	1	3	8	14	4
Doncaster Rov	4	0	1	3	4	15	1

WPL Next Round
Emerging Athlete v Casey Comets <i>DISC - Pitch 1</i> <i>Wed 27 April 7:30PM</i>
Doncaster Rovers v South Melbourne <i>Anderson Park</i> <i>Fri 29 April 8:30PM</i>
Box Hill United v Altona City <i>Wembley Park</i> <i>Fri 29 April 8:30PM</i>
Bundoora Utd v Ashburton <i>Hills Recreation Reserve</i> <i>Sat 30 April 2:00PM</i>
Heidelberg Utd v VCL Country <i>Olympic Village</i> <i>Sun 1 May 11 1:00PM</i>
Sandringham SC v Casey Comets <i>Kingston Heath</i> <i>Mon 2 May 11 8:30PM</i>

WPL RESERVES LADDER							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Box Hill Utd	4	4	0	0	23	5	12
South Melb	4	2	1	1	12	8	7
Bundoora Utd	4	2	1	1	6	4	7
Casey Comets	3	2	0	1	13	5	6
Sandringham	3	2	0	1	6	3	6
Altona City	3	1	1	1	2	5	4
Ashburton	3	1	0	2	6	8	3
Heidelberg Utd	4	0	1	3	1	13	1
Emerging Ath	0				0	0	0
VCL Country	0				0	0	0
Doncaster Rov	4	0	0	4	3	21	0



Hannah Stuart (Sandringham) tries to lose Jessie Kotsikas (Ashburton)Photo: JOHN PUNSHON

Results & Ladders

Victorian State & Provisional Leagues - Round 03

Seniors

STATE NORTH WEST 2

Reserves

Geelong 4 Brunswick City 1 (A Vulic), Altona City 1 (M Esposito) Werribee City 2, Altona East Phoenix 0 Whittlesea Ranges FC 2 (D Nastevski M Packovski), Ballarat Red Devils 2 (C King P McClounan) FC Clifton Hill 1, Banyule City 1 Moreland City 5

Geelong 1 Brunswick City 3, Altona City 3 (J Conroy 2 L Dossis) Werribee City 3, Altona East Phoenix 2 Whittlesea Ranges FC 4 (S Kolay D Giogha 3), Ballarat Red Devils 2 FC Clifton Hill 2, Banyule City 4 Moreland City 3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Moreland City	3	3	0	0	14	4	9
Whittlesea Ranges FC	3	2	1	0	5	2	7
Werribee City	3	3	0	0	5	1	6
Ballarat Red Devils	3	2	0	1	6	3	6
FC Clifton Hill	3	2	0	1	5	2	3
Altona East Phoenix	3	1	0	2	4	6	3
Geelong	3	1	0	2	6	10	3
Altona City	3	0	1	2	3	5	1
Williamstown	2	0	1	1	1	5	1
Westgate	2	1	0	1	3	3	0
Banyule City	3	0	0	3	1	8	0
Brunswick City	3	0	1	2	4	8	-2

Seniors

STATE NORTH WEST 3

Reserves

Cairnlea 1 (K Irdem) La Trobe University 0, Avondale Heights 4 (M Jancic M Principato 2 A Cuzzupe) Maribymong Greens 2, Hume Utd 3 (A Koruklu J Odisho F Oztas) Melbourne University 0, Keilor Park 1 (B Malaga) Sunbury Utd 0, Sydenham Park 2 Geelong Rangers 3, Whittlesea Utd 0 Yarraville Glory 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Keilor Park	3	2	1	0	3	0	7
Cairnlea	3	2	1	0	4	2	7
Avondale Heights	3	2	0	1	7	5	6
Yarraville Glory	3	2	0	1	4	4	6
Geelong Rangers	3	1	2	0	7	6	5
Melbourne University	3	1	1	1	4	3	4
Whittlesea Utd	3	1	1	1	4	3	4
Hume Utd	3	1	0	2	5	3	3
Sydenham Park	3	1	0	2	6	7	3
La Trobe University	3	1	0	2	2	3	3
Sunbury Utd	3	1	0	2	3	5	3
Maribymong Greens	3	0	0	3	3	9	0

Seniors

PROVI 1 NORTH WEST

Reserves

FC Strathmore 3 Corio 5 (V Stojanovic L Nelson M Marinovic 3), Laverton Park 3 (M Gonzalez G Lagos P Tawaf) Western Eagles 2 (R Chelchowski J Danielczak), Northern Falcons 2 (B Jones T Tijani) North City Lions 5 (D Cannizzaro M Hana M Schiafone K Ayache V Schiafone), South Yarra 0 Westvale 0, Surf Coast 2 (B Le Cornu BP Bunce) Essendon Utd 1, Sporting Whittlesea FC 0 North Sunshine Eagles 3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Corio	3	3	0	0	9	4	9
Western Eagles	3	2	0	1	7	4	6
North City Lions	3	2	0	1	8	6	6
North Sunshine Eagles	3	1	2	0	5	2	5
South Yarra	3	1	1	1	4	3	4
Laverton Park	3	1	1	1	4	4	4
Surf Coast	3	1	1	1	6	8	4
Westvale	3	0	3	0	4	4	3
Northern Falcons	3	1	0	2	4	8	3
FC Strathmore	3	0	2	1	6	8	2
Essendon Utd	3	0	1	2	3	5	1
Sporting Whittlesea FC	3	0	1	2	3	7	1

Seniors

PROVI 2 NORTH WEST

Reserves

Bell Park 2 (E Lawrence M Gstalter) Hoppers Crossing 3, Elwood City 4 Lalor Utd 2, Melbourne City 4 (S Said 3 K Lunga) Northern Roosters 1 (G Cetlik), Moreland Utd 1 Epping City 0, Plenty Valley Lions 3 (D Petkovski D Stojanovski N Filin) Melbourne Tornado 0, Upfield 0 West Preston 1 (T Alessandrino)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Hoppers Crossing	3	3	0	0	9	4	9
Moreland Utd	3	3	0	0	7	3	9
West Preston	3	3	0	0	5	2	9
Plenty Valley Lions	3	2	0	1	5	2	6
Elwood City	3	1	1	1	9	8	4
Melbourne Tornado	3	1	1	1	6	7	4
Upfield	3	1	0	2	3	3	3
Melbourne City	3	1	0	2	7	8	3
Epping City	3	1	0	2	3	4	3
Lalor Utd	3	1	0	2	4	8	3
Bell Park	3	0	0	3	4	8	0
Northern Roosters	3	0	0	3	3	8	0

Seniors

PROVI 3 NORTH WEST

Reserves

Brimbank Stallions 4 (AS Sposato S Tapia G Tenaglia L Mariona) Balmoral FC 4 (A Kablar H Ikanovic 2 I Pelja), Heidelberg Stars 1 (N Aljaara) Darebin Utd 0, Meadow Park Eagles 3 (A Minutoli D Magro 2) Essendon Royals 2 (M Collina A Sirin), Mill Park 0 Brunswick Zebras 5, Watsonia Heights 6 Youth Utd 0, Melton Phoenix FC 1 (K Leski) Moreland Wolves 7 (M Masterson P Georgios 3 MJ Raimondi P Richman E Gribben)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Brunswick Zebras	3	3	0	0	13	5	9
Heidelberg Stars	3	3	0	0	7	1	9
Meadow Park Eagles	3	3	0	0	9	5	9
Watsonia Heights	3	2	0	1	11	5	6
Essendon Royals	3	2	0	1	11	9	6
Moreland Wolves	3	1	0	2	9	6	3
Darebin Utd	3	1	0	2	4	6	3
Youth Utd	3	1	0	2	3	10	3
Brimbank Stallions	3	1	1	1	8	8	1
Balmoral FC	3	0	1	2	11	13	1
Melton Phoenix FC	3	0	0	3	3	11	0
Mill Park	3	0	0	3	3	10	0

Seniors

PROVI 3 SOUTH EAST

Reserves

Brimbank Stallions 2 Balmoral FC 0, Heidelberg Stars 3 Darebin Utd 0, Meadow Park Eagles 3 Essendon Royals 2 (C Grillo S Bovalino), Mill Park 0 Brunswick Zebras 2, Watsonia Heights 7 Youth Utd 1, Melton Phoenix FC 1 Moreland Wolves 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Heidelberg Stars	3	3	0	0	18	4	9
Watsonia Heights	3	3	0	0	14	2	9
Moreland Wolves	3	2	1	0	11	2	7
Melton Phoenix FC	3	1	1	1	4	4	4
Brunswick Zebras	3	1	1	1	4	5	4
Darebin Utd	3	1	1	1	2	4	4
Meadow Park Eagles	3	1	1	1	4	8	4
Essendon Royals	3	1	0	2	7	7	3
Brimbank Stallions	3	2	0	1	4	5	3
Balmoral FC	3	0	1	2	4	8	1
Youth Utd	3	0	0	3	6	14	0
Mill Park	3	0	0	3	1	16	0

Seniors

PROVI 1 SOUTH EAST

Reserves

Warragul Utd 1 (F Albanese) Brandon Park 0, Old Melbourneians 4 Skye Utd 3 (JJ Muon M Cordoma 2), Hampton Park United Sparrows 4 Mooroolbark 3 (B Roper B Adams D Shields), Monash University 1 (R Roslan) Old Camberwell Grammar 1, Sandringham SC 6 Lyndale Utd 1, Springvale City 4 Beaumaris 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Springvale City	3	3	0	0	7	0	9
Warragul Utd	3	3	0	0	7	1	9
Hampton Park United	3	2	1	0	9	6	7
Mooroolbark	3	2	0	1	9	6	6
Monash University	3	1	2	0	5	4	5
Old Melbourneians	3	1	1	1	7	7	4
Skye Utd	3	1	0	2	7	8	3
Beaumaris	3	1	0	2	4	11	3
Old Camberwell Grammar	3	0	1	2	1	3	1
Lyndale Utd	3	0	1	2	3	10	1
Sandringham SC	3	1	0	2	8	6	0
Brandon Park	3	0	0	3	2	7	0

Seniors

PROVI 2 SOUTH EAST

Reserves

Monbulk 2 Boroondara Eagles 0, Ashburton United 3 (L Atsiaris JA Clemson CL Woollacott) Riversdale 2, Casey Kings 4 Seaford Utd 3, Caulfield United Cobras SC 3 (Y Tufan O Tufan 2) Uni. of Melbourne 0, Endeavour Utd 3 Old Carey 1, Keysborough 1 (M Roberts) Bayside Argonauts 3 (D Dainty 2 P Mcaig)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Caulfield United Cobras	3	3	0	0	8	3	9
Bayside Argonauts	3	2	0	1	9	3	6
Monbulk	3	2	0	1	5	3	6
Riversdale	3	2	0	1	5	4	6
Ashburton United	3	2	0	1	6	7	6
Casey Kings	3	2	1	0	10	5	4
Old Carey	3	1	1	1	4	5	4
Endeavour Utd	3	1	0	2	3	4	3
Boroondara Eagles	3	1	0	2	3	5	3
Keysborough	3	0	1	2	3	6	1
Uni. of Melbourne	3	0	1	2	1	9	1
Seaford Utd	3	0	0	3	6	9	0

Seniors

PROVI 3 SOUTH EAST

Reserves

: Collingwood City 1 (V Chawanda) Baxter 0, Whitehorse Utd 1 Eltham Redback FC 1 (R Murphy), Noble Park 3 Brighton 5, Old Trinity Grammarians 4 (DJ Vissaritis A Mcquinn 2 J Del Rio) East Bentleigh 2 (J Moore A Papaioannou), Rowville Eagles 0 Middle Park FC 5, Old Brighton Grammarians 2 (R Kaiser K Kaneko) White Star Dandenong 3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Middle Park FC	3	3	0	0	12	0	9
Collingwood City	3	3	0	0	7	1	9
Old Brighton Grammarians	3	2	0	1	10	4	6
Rowville Eagles	3	2	0	1	10	8	6
Old Trinity Grammarians	3	2	0	1	7	5	6
Whitehorse Utd	3	1	1	1	4	4	4
Brighton	3	1	0	2	7	9	3
Noble Park	3	1	0	2	6	8	3
Baxter	3	1	0	2	4	8	3
White Star Dandenong	3	1	0	2	5	10	3
Eltham Redback FC	3	0	1	2	3	10	1
East Bentleigh	3	0	0	3	4	12	0

Seniors

PROVI 1 NORTH WEST

Reserves

FC Strathmore 3 Corio 5 (V Stojanovic L Nelson M Marinovic 3), Laverton Park 3 (M Gonzalez G Lagos P Tawaf) Western Eagles 2 (R Chelchowski J Danielczak), Northern Falcons 2 (B Jones T Tijani) North City Lions 5 (D Cannizzaro M Hana M Schiafone K Ayache V Schiafone), South Yarra 0 Westvale 0, Surf Coast 2 (B Le Cornu BP Bunce) Essendon Utd 1, Sporting Whittlesea FC 0 North Sunshine Eagles 3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Corio	3	3	0	0	9	4	9
Western Eagles	3	2	0	1	7	4	6
North City Lions	3	2	0	1	8	6	6
North Sunshine Eagles	3	1	2	0	5	2	5
South Yarra	3	1	1	1	4	3	4
Laverton Park	3	1	1	1	4	4	4
Surf Coast	3	1	1	1	6	8	4
Westvale	3	0	3	0	4	4	3
Northern Falcons	3	1	0	2	4	8	3
FC Strathmore	3	0	2	1	6	8	2
Essendon Utd	3	0	1	2	3	5	1
Sporting Whittlesea FC	3	0	1	2	3	7	1

Seniors

PROVI 2 NORTH WEST

Reserves

Bell Park 0 Hoppers Crossing 1, Elwood City 3 Lalor Utd 1, Melbourne City 2 Northern Roosters 6, Moreland Utd 0 Epping City 2, Plenty Valley Lions 2 Melbourne Tornado 5, Upfield 5 West Preston 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Upfield	3	3	0	0	10	2	9
Elwood City	3	2	1	0	17	7	7
Northern Roosters	3	2	0	1	8	5	6
Epping City	3	2	0	1	6	4	6
Lalor Utd	3	2	0	1	6	4	6
Hoppers Crossing	3	2	0	1	3	1	6
Bell Park	3	1	0	2	3	5	3
Melbourne City	3	1	0	2	6	9	3
Plenty Valley Lions	3	1	0	2	6	10	3
Melbourne Tornado	3	1	0	2	9	16	3
West Preston	3	0	1	2	3	9	1
Moreland Utd	3	0	0	3	1	6	0

Seniors

PROVI 3 NORTH WEST

Reserves

Brimbank Stallions 4 (AS Sposato S Tapia G Tenaglia L Mariona) Balmoral FC 4 (A Kablar H Ikanovic 2 I Pelja), Heidelberg Stars 1 (N Aljaara) Darebin Utd 0, Meadow Park Eagles 3 (A Minutoli D Magro 2) Essendon Royals 2 (M Collina A Sirin), Mill Park 0 Brunswick Zebras 5, Watsonia Heights 6 Youth Utd 0, Melton Phoenix FC 1 (K Leski) Moreland Wolves 7 (M Masterson P Georgios 3 MJ Raimondi P Richman E Gribben)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Brunswick Zebras	3	3	0	0	13	5	9
Heidelberg Stars	3	3	0	0	7	1	9
Meadow Park Eagles	3	3	0	0	9	5	9
Watsonia Heights	3	2	0	1	11	5	6
Essendon Royals	3	2	0	1	11	9	6
Moreland Wolves	3	1	0	2	9	6	3
Darebin Utd	3	1	0	2	4	6	3
Youth Utd	3	1	0	2	3	10	3
Brimbank Stallions	3	1	1	1	8	8	1
Balmoral FC	3	0	1	2	11	13	1
Melton Phoenix FC	3	0	0	3	3	11	0
Mill Park	3	0	0	3	3	10	0

Seniors

PROVI 3 SOUTH EAST

Reserves

Brimbank Stallions 2 Balmoral FC 0, Heidelberg Stars 3 Darebin Utd 0, Meadow Park Eagles 3 Essendon Royals 2 (C Grillo S Bovalino), Mill Park 0 Brunswick Zebras 2, Watsonia Heights 7 Youth Utd 1, Melton Phoenix FC 1 Moreland Wolves 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Heidelberg Stars	3	3	0	0	18	4	9
Watsonia Heights	3	3	0	0	14	2	9
Moreland Wolves	3	2	1	0	11	2	7
Melton Phoenix FC	3	1	1	1	4	4	4
Brunswick Zebras	3	1	1	1	4	5	4
Darebin Utd	3	1	1	1	2	4	4
Meadow Park Eagles	3	1	1	1	4	8	4
Essendon Royals	3	1	0	2	7	7	3
Brimbank Stallions	3	2	0	1	4	5	3
Balmoral FC	3	0	1	2	4	8	1
Youth Utd	3	0	0	3	6	14	0
Mill Park	3	0	0	3	1	16	0

Seniors

PROVI 1 SOUTH EAST

Reserves

Warragul Utd 1 (F Albanese) Brandon Park 0, Old Melbourneians 4 Skye Utd 3 (JJ Muon M Cordoma 2), Hampton Park United Sparrows 4 Mooroolbark 3 (B Roper B Adams D Shields), Monash University 1 (R Roslan) Old Camberwell Grammar 1, Sandringham SC 6 Lyndale Utd 1, Springvale City 4 Beaumaris 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Springvale City	3	3	0	0	7	0	9
Warragul Utd	3	3	0	0	7	1	9
Hampton Park United	3	2	1	0	9	6	7
Mooroolbark	3	2	0	1	9	6	6
Monash University	3	1	2	0	5	4	5
Old Melbourneians	3	1	1	1	7	7	4
Skye Utd	3	1	0	2	7	8	3
Beaumaris	3	1	0	2	4	11	3
Old Camberwell Grammar	3	0	1	2	1	3	1
Lyndale Utd	3	0	1	2	3	10	1
Sandringham SC	3	1	0	2	8	6	0
Brandon Park	3	0	0	3	2	7	0

Seniors

PROVI 2 SOUTH EAST

Reserves

Monbulk 2 Boroondara Eagles 0, Ashburton United 2 Riversdale 1, Casey Kings 0 Seaford Utd 5, Caulfield United Cobras SC 2 Uni. of Melbourne 1, Endeavour Utd 0 Old Carey 0, Keysborough 4 (J Roberts N Talevski M Juricic J Viegas) Bayside Argonauts 2 (C Kozaris J Perry)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Monbulk	3	3	0	0	13	0	9
Ashburton United	3	3	0	0	11	2	9

Wanderers hit Fitzroy for Six!

By Michal Skrodsky

Well football freaks another Saturday has passed along with another fantastic round of local football. This week was the round before Easter and each team was keen as mustard to go into the Easter break with their chins up after a win. Let's see how this weeks Provisional and State Leagues panned out.

State 2 NW is becoming the favourite league of point deductions with a further 6 points deducted. This time it was the turn of Werribee City and Clifton Hill to add on top of last week's points deduction from Westgate and Brunswick City. All points deductions have been for playing suspended players, it seems. On the field Moreland City continued their early season rampage smashing Banyule 5-1 away and taking an outright lead on the table. Werribee knocked off Altona City 2-1 away but will sit third on the ladder after their points deduction. Whittlesea Ranges sit second after a 2-0 away win to Altona East. Next round's crunch game comes the bottom of the table though with last placed Brunswick City hosting second last Banyule City in what can make or break the season for either of these teams.

State 2 SE saw Casey Comets smash Heatherton United 6-0 at home but Eastern Lions take top spot after a 2-1 away win at Noble Park United. Doncaster picked up it's first points of the year after a thrilling 3-3 draw with Diamond Valley United. This league remains very tight with only 2 points separating the top half. After Easter the match of the round is probably Eastern Lions vs South Springvale but in such a tight league every game is a crunch game for all teams.



Moreland United's Victor Zala (left) and Youssef Said (Epping City) both get their head to the ball. Photo: JOHN PUNSHON

State 3 NW has Keilor Park and Cairnlea sitting in the top two positions after both teams recorded 1-0 wins this weekend. Avondale Heights is in third after a crunching 4-2 win over local rivals, Maribyrnong Greens. The Greens seem to be in trouble after failing to collect a point in their opening three rounds. Hume United had the most convincing with with a 3-0 win over Melbourne University. Next round's game to look out for is probably Yarraville and Cairnlea with both clubs keen to keep their good start to their season going.

State 3 SE saw Old Scotch maintain a perfect record after a tough 2-1 win against the Frankston Pines at Monterey Reserve but Kingston City can join them if they can beat Doveton at home tonight. Waverley Wanderers had the biggest win of the round with

a 6-0 thrashing of Fitzroy City, that game was also Waverley's first win of the season. Croydon City continued to struggle with another loss, this time 3-1 away to Mornington. Round 4's crunch game will be between two struggling clubs when Croydon City host the Frankston Pines.

Provisional 1 NW saw the mighty Western Eagles lose 3-2 away to Laverton Park. That left the door open for Corio to take top spot and they did after an amazing 5-3 away win at Strathmore, Mijo Marinovic had a hat-trick for Corio by the 35th minute in that match. North City Lions kept themselves in the mix with a good 5-2 away win to Northern Falcons and North Sunshine finally picked up a full compliment of points with a 3-0 away win at Sporting Whittlesea. Next round's match of the round will

for mine will be Western Eagles vs South Yarra, as a win for either team will keep them in touch with Corio.

Provisional 1 SE saw Springvale City remain undefeated as well as remain un-scored on after a 4-0 win against Beaumaris. Warragul also kept their perfect record intact with a 1-0 win at home to Brandon Park. There were two groin-grabbing 4-3 matches, Old Melburnians got over Skye United and Hampton Park got over Mooroolbark. Sandringham also had a morale boosting 6-1 win at home to Lyndale United. Game of the round in Round 4 will be Mooroolbark at home to Warragul United.

Provisional 2 NW is being sung to the tune of Hoppers Crossing, Moreland United and West Preston. All three of these teams are



No-one was surprised when the ref blew his whistle after Hisham Elbache (Epping City) jumped all over Jack Kyriakos (Moreland United) ball. Photo: JOHN PUNSHON

three from three. Hopper's won 3-2 away at Bell Park, West Preston won 1-0 away at Upfield and Moreland United got over Epping City by the same scoreline in last week's Crunch Game at it's Best! Down the other end of the spectrum Northern Roosters and Bell Park are yet to pick up any points and will face off in Round Four in what will be a do or die game for both clubs. Moreland take on West Preston next round in what is shaping up to be a huge clash.

Provisional 2 SE saw the Casey Kings become another victim of the FFV with 3 points deducted for a "breach of Section 1.5 of the Rules of Competition". Which is basically for owing money to the FFV. On the pitch Casey had a 4-3 win over Seaford United. Caulfield United continued on it's merry way with a third win this time at home to University of Melbourne. This league also remains a close battle with second through to fifth sitting on 6 points. After Easter the match of the round is the top of the table clash when Bayside Argonauts hosting undefeated Caulfield United Cobras.

Provisional 3 NW saw another crazy weekend of hockey scores. If you're a neutral fan hoping to see some action packed football, Provisional 3 NW is the league for you. This week included: Brimbank 4-4 Balmoral, Meadow Park 3-2 Essendon Royals, Mill Park 0-5 Brunswick Zebras, Watsonia Heights 6-0 Youth United and Melton 1-7 Moreland Wolves. The round had an average of 5.5 goals a game! Brunswick, Heidelberg and Meadow Park remain undefeated in this league while Melton and Mill Park struggle with no points. Round 4's pick of the round will be Brunswick Zebras vs Brimbank Stallions, as it's the clash of

the Juventus inspired strips.

Provisional 3 SE saw Middle Park and Collingwood City stomp through with three wins from three. Rowville Eagles after scoring 5 goals in both their opening games got smashed for 5 this weekend at home to Middle Park. Collingwood got over Baxter 1-0 at home. White Star Dandenong got their first win of the season 3-2 away to Old Brighton, White Star turned a 1-2 half time deficit into a 3-2 win. Let's hope the Polish community of the eastern suburbs really gets behind White Star as they are the only Polish club in the east. East Bentleigh remain on struggle street with another loss this week 4-2 away to Old Trinity. Next round the match to get to is Eltham Redbacks vs Baxter as it will be a crunch time happy fest on the synthetic pitch at Eltham North Reserve.

This week **Thumping of the Week** goes to Moreland Wolves for their 7-1 win over a hapless Melton away in Provisional 3 NW. Moreland United feature's again in **The Crunch Game at it's Best**, which looks at the most important game for next week. Moreland United will face fellow high-flier West Preston in a top of the table showdown in Provisional 2 NW.

This reporter wishes his readers a happy and safe Easter and as always I encourage everyone to get to their local club. At the game bring your voices, your scarves and your heart and give everything of yourself to help your team get over the line! Why not also buy some of the canteen food and help our your club anyway you can!

CRUNCHALOR!



Simon Eyar (Moreland Utd) beats Michael Nerone (Epping City) to the ball. Photo: JOHN PUNSHON

For the third successive week Port Melbourne hosted the opening match of the round and as in the previous two weeks came away with a fine victory. The Sharks continue to roll opponents at home, the question is, can they continue this form away from home. Fawkn-er Blues set up a tantalising encounter this week against Port Melbourne at CB Smith Reserve by scoring 5 goals past Langwarrin. This will be Port Melbourne’s test in a game that will be worth going a long way to see. Whittlesea Zebras and Southern Stars stayed close to the leaders with narrow wins and are ready to pounce for any slip ups. The battle for places is on in earnest with many games being decided with a stroke of fortune. It has been hard to predict results and this pattern will continue as most teams are so evenly matched.

SHARKS KEEP ON BITING
POR MELBOURNE 3
WESTERN SUBURBS 1

For the first time this season Port Melbourne Sharks had to come from behind to record this win and continue their perfect start to the season. This was Port’s sternest test to date with Western Suburbs making the league leaders earn every kick before wilting late in the game. In Port Melbourne’s third consecutive home match, it was the home team who applied the early pressure without penetrating the visitor’s defence. Western Suburbs came more into the game, but neither side bothered the scoreboard attendant before the break. Suburbs took the lead in the 53 minute when Dimitri Vithoukas opened the scoring. The goal set Port back on their heels and lifted the visitor’s confidence as they went in search of more goals. Lorenz Kindtner’s men had two golden opportunities to put the game to bed, but failed, and were punished with Port Melbourne getting on level terms through a Ryan O’Hare goal in the 58 minutes. The Sharks turned the game around by taking the lead with a some what fortunate goal scored by Nick Kalambokis with 25 minutes remaining. Western Suburbs chances of grabbing an equaliser nose dived when Jason Corbett was sent off, and the home team rounded up the scoring with a third goal 5 minutes from time when Tim Paton put the icing on the cake for the Sharks. It was a case of what could have been for Suburbs who must be ruing the missed chances and some very ordinary defence

BLUES RUNNING HOT
LANGWARRIN 1
FAWKNER BLUES 5

Fawkn-er’s trip to Lawton Park proved very fruitful indeed with the Blues easily accounting for Langwarrin. The Blues had to come from behind after Alan Pratt gave Langwarrin the lead after 38 minutes. Fawkn-er got back on level terms just before half time with a goal from Osman Kosi. The Blues went in front early in the second half when Simon Tolli scored following some poor defensive work by the home team. It soon became 3-1 with the goal coming from Burakhan Koca. Gus McLeod wasn’t going to die wondering and introduced his three substitutes in a bid to get back into the game. Langwarrin

High Fives For Fawkn-er; Sharks Attack



Langy's Allan Pratt on the ball with with Fawkn-er's Lucas Borovinsky. PHOTO: DARRYL KENNEDY



Fawkn-er's Francesco Deanatolis tries to escape from Langwarrin's Nick D'Angello. PHOTO: DARRYL KENNEDY

had their chances, but the elusive goals would not come. Fawkn-er was able to weather the Langwarrin storm that saw the home team hitting the post and missing an open goal from close range. The Blues survived and took advantage of having an extra men after Langwarrin went down to 10 men following an injury to their sweeper. Fawkn-er wrapped up the game with another two goals from Robert Dolevski in injury time. The 5-1 score line looks very good on paper, but it does not truly reflect the balance of this match. Fawkn-er was hot in front of goals while Langwarrin froze.

THE LIONS SHOW PLENTY OF FIGHT
SOUTHERN STARS 2
PRESTON LIONS 1

As predicted Southern Stars came away from this encounter with all 3 points following a 2-1 win. However it was not as convincing as expected, with the Stars given a big fright by a team that was supposedly low on confidence following last weeks debacle. Preston was unrecognisable in this game, as they took the game to Southern Stars at the Kingston Heath Soccer Complex. It was a very tight affair with the game in the balance at one all at half time. Preston had the better of the exchanges, but a lack of vision and ideas prevented them from taking the lead. Veteran John Sapazovski played his part for the Lions, but wasn’t provided with the service he so desired. His skill in scoring the Lion’s only goal was superb. The Southern Stars team was a little off key in this match and not up the previous week’s effort, but it was still good enough to get all 3 points. After losing their opening match of the season, the Stars have bounced back with two wins to catapult up into the top four.

WARRIORS FIRST WIN
SUN GEORGE CROSS 1
NTH GEELONG WARRIORS 2



Fawkn-er’s Robert Dolevski scored a brace in the 5-1 win over Langwarrin. PHOTO: DARRYL KENNEDY

North Geelong Warriors recorded their first win of the season when they overcame Sunshine George Cross 2-1 at Chaplin Reserve. The first half was low key with the home team slightly the more dominant without ever threatening Daniel Zilic in the Warrior’s goal. It was North Geelong that came closest to scoring with the Georgie defenders having to scramble clear a shot that struck the cross-bar just before the break. Sunshine’s full back Heo Wookbum was fortunate to stay on the park following a late tackle that referee James Nicolopoulos deemed unworthy of a second bookable offence. Sunshine George Cross Coach Fab Soncin didn’t take any chances and replaced the nuggetty full-back at the half time break. North Geelong made amends for their narrow miss prior to the break, by taking the lead in the 46 minute with a goal by Mijo Trupkovic. The Georgie defence gave the ball away on three occasions in the lead up to the goal that inspired the visitors. It was 2 nil 10 minutes later, when the

home team’s defence was caught square and Reha Kurul curled his shot high into the corner of the net. It could have been 3-0 but for a great save by Mario Roza, as he prevented a certain goal from Michael Boyar who was through on goal. The Georgies arose from their slumber and took control in the last 30 minutes. Goal scoring chances were still hard to come by with the North Geelong defenders not giving the Cross forwards any space. North was fortunate not to concede a penalty kick after 60 minutes when Andrew Bourakis was pushed in the back as he tried to head the ball towards goal. Sunshine kept on attacking and was back in the game after 76 minutes when Con Anthopoulos steered a Barry Devlin cross past Zilic to set up a grand stand finish. North was denied a third goal by a brilliant Mario Roza save when Reardo Luka let fly from 25 metres. At the other end the Georgies corner count count mounted, but the much desired goal for the home team would not come. It was the North Geelong players who were

jubilant to hear the final whistle with the Warriors recording their first win of the season.

ZEBRAS ON THE RISE
WHITTLESEA ZEBRAS 1
PASCOE VALE 0

The Zebras surge towards the top continued with this close 1-0 victory over a competitive Pascoe Vale unit. A first half goal by Vincent Faherty was enough to settle this much anticipated fixture in Whittlesea’s favour. The goal from the lively Irishman came after 25 minutes with Pascoe Vale trying hard for the remainder of the match, but unable to find an equaliser. Whittlesea was the more creative in the opening 45 minute and deserved their slender lead. The home team went close to adding to the score just after the break from a corner kick that bounced on the cross-bar and was cleared to safety. Pascoe Vale lifted their effort in the second half and applied immense pressure as they went in search of a goal. Faherty’s departure following an injury weakened the Zebras with Pascoe Vale well and truly on the

SL1 RESULTS

Rd 3: Port Melbourne 3 (N Kalambokis R O'Hare T Paton) Western Suburbs 1 (D Vithoulkas)
Langwarrin 1 (A Pratt) Fawkn-er Blues 5 (S Tolli R Dolevski 2 B Koca O Kose)
Southern Stars 2 Preston Lions 1
Sunshine George Cross 1 North Geelong Warriors 2
Whittlesea Zebras 1 Pascoe Vale 0
U21: Rd 3: Port Melbourne 1 Western Suburbs 3
Langwarrin 3 Fawkn-er Blues 0,
Southern Stars 8 Preston Lions 5,
Sunshine George Cross 2 North Geelong Warriors 2
Whittlesea Zebras 5 Pascoe Vale 1.

SL1 LADDER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Port Melbourne	3	3	0	0	8	2	9
Whittlesea Z	3	2	1	0	5	3	7
Fawkn-er Blues	3	2	0	1	6	2	6
Southern Stars	3	2	0	1	6	6	6
Altona Magic	2	1	1	0	3	2	4
Western Sub	3	1	1	1	4	5	4
Langwarrin	3	1	1	1	5	7	4
Pascoe Vale	3	1	0	2	7	3	3
George Cross	3	1	0	2	5	6	3
North Geelong	3	1	0	2	3	6	3
Bulleen Lions	2	0	0	2	1	3	0
Preston Lions	3	0	0	3	2	10	0

SL1 Next Round


Nth Geelong Warriors v Preston Lions <i>Elcho Park</i> <i>Fri 29 April 8:30PM</i>
Altona Magic v Langwarrin <i>Paisley Park Soccer Complex</i> <i>Sat 30 April 3:00PM</i>
Fawkn-er Blues v Port Melbourne <i>CB Smith Reserve</i> <i>Sat 30 April 3:00PM</i>
Pascoe Vale v Southern Stars <i>Hosken Reserve</i> <i>Sat 30 April 3:00PM</i>
Whittlesea Zebras v FC Bulleen Lions <i>Epping Soccer Stadium</i> <i>Sun 1 May 11 3:00PM</i>
Western Suburbs v SunGeorge Cross <i>Ralph Reserve</i> <i>Sun 1 May 11 3:00PM</i>

SL1 U21 LADDER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Whittlesea Z	3	2	1	0	10	5	7
Southern Stars	3	2	1	0	11	7	7
Langwarrin	3	2	0	1	7	4	6
Pascoe Vale	3	2	0	1	10	8	6
Fawkn-er Blues	3	2	0	1	5	6	6
Western Sub	3	2	0	1	8	10	6
North Geelong	3	1	1	1	7	5	4
Bulleen Lions	2	1	0	1	8	4	3
George Cross	3	0	2	1	6	11	2
Altona Magic	2	0	1	1	4	5	1
Preston Lions	3	0	0	3	8	13	0
Port Melbourne	3	0	0	3	2	8	0

front foot. The charge was led by Joseph Yousif who was Pascoe Vale’s go to man. Despite his inspirational play, Pascoe Vale could not find a way through the resolute Whittlesea defence, with few clear cut chances being created. The Zebras was able to hold on for all 3 points that moves the team to second place on the ladder. Vincent Flaherty was the home team’s outstanding player until he was substituted early in the second half, and Ersin Kaya who caught the eye.







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Futsal Oz Cup delivers dream Semi Finals

By Peter Parthimos & Matthew Montgomery

Metropolitan 5-1 Fitzroy FC

UPDATE: The opening match of Round 1 of the 10-11 FOz CUP saw 2nd placed Metropolitan FC face 7th ranked Fitzroy FC. Metro were too strong for a depleted FCC who were still without Vic keeper Dianoosh and the influential goal sneak Haider Noor. The current Fitzroy team don't play with the same confidence as they once had when Dianoosh was in goals, and it seems that trying to fill that void in between the sticks has become a real problem for Fitzroy's manager Hamid Hassanikhoo, who has since has tried three different keepers. In a bid to try and score more goals, Hassanikhoo also recruited former FC Collingwood front man Cameron Holmes. Although he didn't score, his run and carry all over the pitch was a much needed addition to the Fitzroy team. With the Yellow's keeper issues aside, the Sky Blues will consider themselves one of the favourites after a dominating Round 1 performance. Along with finishing 2nd in the league for the second season in a row and runners up in the 2010 FOz CUP, Metropolitan have been to the centre stage many times before and maybe this season could be the one where Metro finally put some silverware in the cabinet. The Metro defenders were amongst the top scorers with 2 goals a piece to Husmir Ikanovic and Jusuf Avdic, which was enough to knock-out Fitzroy and advance to the semi-finals. It was a 5-1 result in the end.

Pascoe Vale 10-1 Prahran

UPDATE: Current season Champions Pascoe Vale FC moved comfortably through to the 2nd round after accounting for FC Prahran 10 - 2 in front of a nice crowd. Prahran went to the trade table after Round 22 and recruited



2010-11 Season Champions Pascoe Vale FC lift the V-LEAGUE trophy for the second time.

former FC Collingwood defender Tom Brooks, who put in a spirited performance, but that did little to stop the Pascoe Vale machine. Like most weeks most of the Pascoe players were amongst the goals as current V-LEAGUE top scorer J.Da Silva & E.Simsek bagged 3 each. Spiritual leader Maxi Avram did his best to keep his Prahran side in the game with his constant run and a fine brace, but looked to have run out of puff after holding the champs to 3-0 at half time, also being backed up with solid performances to fearless defender Clint Mogoai and playmaker Ahmed Muktar. But what Prahran need next season is squad depth and Goals, so the Prahran boys will have to get busy in the transfer market if they want to secure their top flight status next season. The win for Pascoe Vale means they will face either Ashburton or Hume in the semi-finals.

Ashburton FC 4-3 Hume FC

UPDATE: The clash between

Ashburton FC and Hume FC was one that was always going to be a close encounter, and it was a match that went into extra time as both teams were locked at 3 at full time. But it was Ashburton playmaker Mauricio Novak who stole the show with the match winner which eliminated the cup dark horse Hume FC. Ashburton showed their intent to capture FOz Cup glory this season by recruiting three new players. The new inclusions were FC Collingwood's keeper James Bush and two Melbourne Uni forwards Duke Yuva and Udit Dahwan from the State LEAGUE. The new additions to the green machine were certainly up for the challenge as Yuva booted the opening goal and took a bit of the focus off James Blackburn, allowing the mecurial one to score two. Adam Hussein was definitely the pick of the bunch from the Hume side with two goals and an effort just seconds before normal time ended hitting the post. Hume keeper Con Makris and defender Resit

Culculoglu as always were strong contributors but it was not enough as Ashburton went through 4-3 after extra time. The win sets up a mouth watering clash with Pascoe Vale and with Ashburton's new-look squad, they will fancy their chances.

Nth Melb FC 11-5 Essendon

UPDATE: In a clash that saw 3rd placed Nth Melbourne FC take on 6th placed FC Essendon, it was the precision and class of North Melbourne that overcame the physicality and experience of Essendon. North Melbourne, who have been without silverware in the V-LEAGUE under manager Milton Sakkos wanted to improve on their already talented squad for the Cup, so former Mickleham FC keeper Christos Apostolakis was drafted into the squad. It proved to be a match winning trade as Apostolakis's athleticism and determination was a welcomed asset to the squad by Sakkos. The new inclusion also allowed the Dark Blues played with a

new found confidence as all North Players were amongst the goals, led by Jonathan Barrientos and Tiago with 3 each. FC Essendon also had intentions of moving on to the semi finals by recruiting Apostolakis's former team mate Dushan Bosniak as a helping hand to regular goal threat Alexander Stevanovic. The forward partnership seemed to be working quite well as Alexander scored 3 and the constant run of Bosniak earned him a brace. But it was not enough as it was a comfortable win in the end to North Melbourne 11 - 5 sending a message to the rest of the CUP contenders they are not here to make up the numbers. The win sets up a semi final encounter with top four rivals Metropolitan FC.

2010/11 Awards

- 1. **Best Keeper:** B.Chen FCB
- 2. **Best Youth Player:** R.Ferguson (PVFC)
- 3. **Best Manager:** A.Simos (PVFC)
- 4. **Top Scorer:** J.Da Silva (PVFC)
- 5. **Best & Fairest:** A.Caro (PVFC)
- 6. **Most Valuable Player (MVP):** J.Da Silva
- 7. **V-LEAGUE Champions:** Pascoe Vale FC
- 8. **State LEAGUE Champions:** FC Melbourne
- 9. **State LEAGUE Top Scorer:** R. Zadworny (FCB)

FUTSAL Oz CUP Results Elimination Rd 1 Wed 13th April

•7:15 (2nd) Metropolitan FC v (7th) Fitzroy FC	5-1
•8:00 (1st) Pascoe Vale FC v (8th) FC Prahran	10-1
•8:45 (4th) Ashburton FC v (5th) Hume FC	4-3 (a.e.t)
•9:30 (3rd) Nth Melbourne FC v (6th) FC Essendon	11-5

FUTSAL Oz CUP Fixtures Semi Finals Wed April 20th

•8:00 (1st) Pascoe Vale FC v (4th) Ashburton FC
•8:45 (2nd) Metropolitan FC v (3rd) North Melbourne FC

V-League Top Scorers

1.Joao Da Silva (PVFC)	49 goals
2.Alexander Stevanovic (FCE)	46
3.Alija Redzepovic (MFC)	37
4.Leonardo Correa (AFC)	36

Relegation/Promotion Battles 1st Leg Sunday April 17th

•7:45 (SL 2nd) Balwyn v (VL 11th) Brimbank
•8:00 (SL 3rd) Footscray v (VL 10th) Brunswick
•8:45 (SL 4th) Albert Park v (VL 9th) Mickleham

Relegation/Promotion Battles 2nd Leg Wed 20th April

•6:30 (SL 3rd) FC Footscray v (VL 10th) CF Brunswick
•7:15 (SL 2nd) FC Balwyn v (VL 11th) Brimbank FC
•9:30 (SL 4th) Albert Park FC v (VL 9th) Mickleham FC

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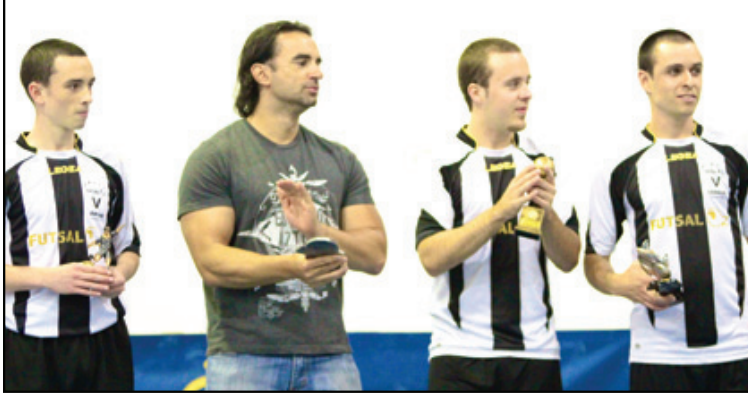
Photos By MATT MONTGOMERY & JAMES SOUFIS



Hume's Adam Hussein ruing missed chances in their clash with Ashburton.



North Melbourne's influential midfield duo of Kui Mu (L) and Tiago (R) celebrate a goal.



Pascoe Vale clean up the 10-11 season individual awards. (L-R) R. Ferguson - Young Player of the Season, A. Simos - Manager of the Season, A. Caro - Best & Fairest, J. Da Silva - Top Goal Scorer & M. V. P.



The crowd looks on as Fitzroy's Hamid Hassanikhoo and Metro's Jusuf Avdic battle for the ball.



CF Brunswick's Keeper of the 10-11 Season Brendan Chen.



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NORTHCOTE CITY



0

SPRINGVALE W EAGLES



0

Match Details

Northcote City: Chris PETROPOULOS, Paul SAVIO, Kristian KONSTANTINIDIS, Adriano CHIAPPETTA, Hayden D'AGOSTINO, Nick TZOULIS, Jason TRIFIRO, Glen TRIFIRO, Nicholas CURTIS (Rodrigo COVARRUBIAS '82), Eduardo SOARES (James KALIFATIDIS '66), Trent RIXON. Unused Subs: Charlie TREACEY, Harry KINIGOPOULOS, Samuel TORRENS

Scorers: None Yellow Cards: Kristian KONSTANTINIDIS 76' Red Cards: None

Springvale White Eagles: Scott AGUSTIN, Adam EWIN, Boris BAJIC, Gojko PONJEVIC (Gordan MRDIC '57), Lewis KARANICOLAS, Milos LUJIC, Rados TOMIC (Tome RACUNICA '70), Dushan NIKOLIC, Dominic D'ANGELO, Zoran VUKAS, Goran ZORIC (Paul MAGHIAR '77). Unused Subs: Christian MORALES, Andres JEREZ

Scorers: None Yellow Cards: None Red Cards: None

Man of the Match: Chris PETROPOULOS
Venue: John Cain Memorial Park
Crowd: 500

All square as Eagles hold City

By Tony Persoglia

In an encounter which promised much but failed to deliver, Northcote City were held to a scoreless draw by a well organised Springvale White Eagles at John Cain Memorial Park on Saturday afternoon. The match failed to get out of first gear as both teams struggled to create genuine goal scoring opportunities, and the result ultimately proved a fair outcome.

Northcote welcomed the inclusion of Trent Rixon in the starting lineup, who assumed the role up front in place of James Kalifatidis. Sam Torrens was also available for selection and took up a position on the substitutes bench, fresh from an appearance in the Under 21s earlier on in the day where he scored a goal in an eight goal romp. Springvale, reeling from a demoralising home defeat at the hands of Dandenong Thunder, showed faith in its squad, naming a completely unchanged starting lineup for the clash.

The visitors created the first genuine chance on goal after five minutes, when Lewis Karanicolas found himself with a shot and only Chris Petropoulos to beat, but the City custodian was off his line early to smother the opportunity. Glen Trifiro had a more difficult chance in the 10th minute, his right foot shot from outside the box was powerful enough, but misdirected all the same.

The Blue and Whites controlled possession for much of the half, but as is often the case, the White Eagles were left to rue the more clear cut opportunities, Goran Zoric unlucky not to score after some fine lead-up play in the 21st minute, Petropoulos on hand again to ensure



Midfield action in the 0-0 draw between the Northcote City and Springvale White Eagles. Photo: PETER PSARROS

parity was maintained. Milos Lujic caused the City defenders no end of concern in the 40th minute, when his whipping cross eluded everyone, his teammates included.

City's best chance of the half came to their captain Trent Rixon, who showed a good turn of pace to cut inside his defender and unleash a venomous strike which sailed wide of the keeper and the far post.

The second half literally commenced with a bang, the White Eagles catching the hosts unaware as Zoric slipped onto a pass behind the defence. Petropoulos was again quick to react, and won a stern challenge outside of his area, Zoric slow

to recover from the impact.

Glen Trifiro, tireless all day with his work rate and set pieces, danced through the White Eagles defence for one of the few times in the match in the 53rd minute, but his weak left foot shot did little to trouble Scott Augustin in the visitors goal.

There were some terrific exchanges to follow, firstly in the 58th minute where Zoran Vukas had a shot which was again expertly saved by Petropoulos, who released for an immediate counter attack that found an eager Rixon hitting the post only seconds later.

Both teams turned to the substitutes bench (City with James

Kalifatidis and the Eagles with Tome Racunica) to find the inspiration which would ultimately turn the match. Northcote assumed total control in the final thirty minutes, dominating possession and sending wave upon wave of attack at the Eagles goal.

But again, the opportunity fell to Springvale to steal all three points in the 84th minutes, and with what appeared to be the best chance of the match. With Lujic through on goal and not a defender about to check his delightful run, his shot was brilliantly denied by Petropoulos, who got down low to his right to scoop up any chance the game had of a goal. It capped off a

man-of-the-match performance for the City custodian, ensuring the scores remained level once the final whistle had been blown.

Springvale will take heart from another strong performance away from home, and they return to White Eagles Stadium after the Easter break for a crunch match against the struggling Green Gully on Sunday May 1st. Northcote are again at John Cain Memorial Park on Easter Saturday afternoon, for a match against the Victoria Training Centre in the only metropolitan league match of the weekend.



More sliding tackle action as White Eagles hunt in pairs. Photo: PETER PSARROS



White Eagles' Milos Lujic challenges for the header against his Northcote opponent. Photo: JPETER PSARROS

GREEN GULLY CAVALIERS
0

HEIDELBERG UNITED
1

Match Details

Green Gully: Nikola ROGANOVIC, Daniel JONES, Jason HAYNE, Brent FISHER, Graham HOCKLESS, Pasquale VIZZARI (Andy VARGAS 57'), Mathew SANDERS, Ryan OLLERTON, Hamid BASMA (Michael ANDERSON 67'), Mile MEDJEDOVIC, Johnathon MUNOZ.

Unused Subs: Michael O'FARRELL, Joshua PUGH, Konrad DOBRASZKIEWICZ

Yellow Cards: Ollerton 32', Vargas 78', Anderson 85'.

Heidelberg United: Griffin MC MASTER, John LAZARIDIS (George PAPADOPOULOS 75'), Craig ELVIN, Ben WEARING, Richard GREER, Evan CHRISTODOULOU (Les DOUMBALIS 75'), Yarred HAILEMELEKOT, Hamlet ARMENIAN, Saso ALEXOVSKI (Takanori NISHIMOTO 53'), Osagie EDERARO, Steve MARTIN.

Unused Subs: Andrew NABBOUT, Jason KOUTSODONTIS.

Goal: Ederaro 48' (p).

Yellow Cards: Hailemelekot 15', Alexovski 25', Elvin 35', Ederaro 78', Papadopoulos 83'.

Red Card: Ederaro 90'.

Heidelberg Piles The Misery On Gully

By Steven Talevski

Heidelberg United have continued Green Gully's dismal start of the season with a 1-0 win at Green Gully Reserve on Saturday afternoon.

In a must win match, Green Gully were without Cameron Drake and Captain Jeffrey Fleming while club great Manny Muscat was in attendance.

In a dramatic start the reigning champions began the match looking for an early goal as Graham Hockless forced Griffin Mc Master into a solid save to his left. However the rebound was meet by Gully's Jason Hayne who played the ball to Hamid Basma. Basma put the ball in the back of the net but his celebrations were cut short as the goal was disallowed for a questionable offside decision.

The referee was once again forced to make a strong decision as a penalty call wasn't answered as Osagie Ederaro

went down in the box in the 24th minute.

As the half came to an end Heidelberg continued to tighten their defence with last ditch efforts against Gully's attack of Graham Hockless and Hamid Basma.

The second half began with Green Gully giving away a penalty for dragging Osagie Ederaro down in the box in the 48th minute.

Ederaro stepped up to hit his penalty to the top right corner for the match's only goal.

Heidelberg United pushed on for a second goal as Gully goalkeeper Nikola Roganovic continued to look strong in goals as he took the ball from Osagie Ederaro's feet to make a good save in the 63rd minute.

Green Gully looked for an equaliser as Jason Hayne forced former Brisbane Roar goalkeeper Griffin Mc Master into a good save.

Green Gully continued to attack but were unable to find an opening as their disap-

pointing start of the season continues.

In the dying minutes of the match, Heidelberg's Osagie Ederaro was shown his second yellow and given his marching orders for simulation.

Osagie Ederaro will now miss Heidelberg's visit to St Albans.

Green Gully have now dropped to the relegation zone and could repeat the actions of Altona Magic who won the 2008 Premier League Grand Final and got relegated in the following season, while Heidelberg United have won two straight matches for the first time this season.

After the Easter Break Green Gully visit Springvale on May 1st and may look towards some of their youth as their U21's team have now won six on the trot, while Heidelberg United visit bottom of the table St Albans Saints on the same afternoon.



Green Gully's Pasquale Vizzari wins the header under pressure from Saso Alexovski. Photo: DANIEL FLIS



Heidelberg United's Craig Elvin prepares to swallow the ball. Photo: DANIEL FLIS



Heidelberg keeper Griffin McMaster manages the smother the pressure from Green Gully's Hamid Basma Photo: DANIEL FLIS



In an action packed afternoon for Osagie Ederaro, he no mistake from the spot to break the deadlock, but received a red card later in the match. Photo: DANIEL FLIS



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DANDENONG THUNDER



1

BENTLEIGH GREENS



1

Match Details

Dandenong Thunder:

Webster, S., Barnes, J., Harbison, B., Rexhepi, S., Gray, S., Tomic, A. (Ukalovski, D., 85'), Taylor, C., Sherbon, L., Theodore, M. (Cooke S. 63'), Kearney, L., Korcari, V. (Rojas A. 69')

Scorer: Kearney, L. 86'

Bentleigh Greens:

Gavalas, P., Matthews, T., Smart, C. (McGarry, J. 75'), Wallace, W., McIlroy, S., Doyle, H., Fadljevic, A. (Keogh D. 89'), Wilford, A., Davidson, R., Webster, J., Nicholson, S.

Scorer: Fadljevic, A. 59'

Greens Point to Improvement

By George Stogiannou

Thunder striker Liam Kearney scored a late equalizer to ensure a hard earned point for the league leader in a 1-1 home draw against Bentleigh Greens.

The visitors were seeking to revive its fortunes under a new coach whilst the home team were on a roll aiming for a third win in six days following its 3-0 away win against Springvale White Eagles last Sunday and its 6-0 home crushing of the VTC youth side.

Thunder may have been feeling the effects of a tough schedule early on and were fortunate not to concede when Greens' Stuart Nicholson and Sean McIlroy each had a couple of decent chances. Down the other end Thunder's Chris Taylor almost opened the scoring when he got in behind the Bentleigh defence only to be foiled by keeper Peter Gavalas's smart save, in what was to be the first of a number of fine Gavalas moments in the game.

The home team grabbed the game by the scruff of the neck after the 25th minute putting the visitors under sustained pressure, creating several opportunities but unable to find a way past Gavalas.

Against the run of play, the Greens stunned the home fans in the 59th minute when full back Adam Fadljevic's thunderous left foot shot, aided by a wicked deflection, flew past Thunder keeper Stuart Webster into the net.

The goal signalled a Thun-



It was action aplenty on Saturday night as Greens keeper Peter Gavalas is under siege from the Thunder attack.

PHOTO: ANITA MILAS

der surge of attacks flooding the Greens half. When substitute striker Stephen Cooke found the back of the net from close range in the 71st the Thunder fans' joyful celebration turned to disbelief and anger when the linesman ruled the goal offside.

In the 86th minute, the Thunder attack, now playing with three strikers, besieged the Greens defence, unleashing a barrage of shots only to find a desperate Greens defence blocking the way. After three consecutive attempts, the ball rebounded to Kearney who calmly placed a firm side-footed shot past Gavalas

into the net sparking wild celebration amongst the Thunder players themselves who chased Kearney to the corner where they saluted his effort and the crowd.

Thunder was full of running in the end, but the visitors clung on to take home a valuable point.

After the match, Thunder coach Stuart Munro commented, "I think we fully deserved to get the equalizer. It's the standard that we're at. In the changing room after the game, our players were really disappointed we didn't win that game. I know for a fact, if you went into the Bentleigh dressing room they'd be

delighted they got a draw. To me it's the standard that we've set. And obviously Bentleigh will set their own standards and try to improve and Johnny will do well with them.

But from out point of view it shows where we are at as a club, that we're disappointed not to win a game we pretty much dominated apart from the first 15-20 minutes."

Bentleigh Greens coach John Anastasiadis commented afterwards, "The first 30 we were sensational. We had two or three great opportunities to score. They got on top in the last 15 minutes of the first half.

The second half was a bit of a scrap really. Both teams went hammer and tong at each other. I think in the end it was a fair result the 1-1 draw.

I've only been there two weeks. It's still a work in progress. We definitely need to strengthen the squad. Every player is fantastic but we're very thin. We've only got about 14 players. So definitely we need to strengthen the squad with two or three good players. I think if we do that we should be OK for the rest of the season."



Bentleigh's Adam Fadljevic leaves the Thunder defence in his wake after his effort found the back of the net and put the visitors into a shock lead. PHOTO: ANITA MILAS



Liam Kearney salvages the game for the Thunder late in the match and breaks a few Green hearts along the way. PHOTO: ANITA MILAS

1

1

Match Details

St. Albans Saints: 1. Steven PAVLOVIC, 5. Brian CHES-SON, 16. Tomislav DSKOK, 23. Tomislav MILARDOVIC, 19. Michael GRCIC, 14. Mark PALEKA, 4. Mark GUZE, 8. Liam CANNELL, 7. Goran JOZELJIC, 9. Josip LON-CARIC (11. Marijan CVITK-OVIC), 21. Martin HANA. Un-Used Subs: 20. Anthony LONCARIC, 6. Alan PALEKA, 3. Stefan JESENSEK, 13. Luis OSORIA.

Melbourne Knights: 1. Martin JOHN, 3. Ryan FILIPOVIC, 4. Ben SUREY, 6. Junior CA-MARGO, 8. Josip MAGDIC. 11. Anthony COLOSIMO, 14. Jean-Charles DUBOIS, 18. Daniel DRAGICEVIC, 19. Adam ZILIC, 22. Craig SWEENEY (2. Shaun ROMEIN), 23. Mathieu WEL-MANT (5. Leo SHIN). Un-Used Subs: 21. Aaron ROMEIN, 20. Jacob COLO-SIMO, 17. Joseph FRANJIC.

Knights Spoil Saints Derby Party

By David Manuca

A 93rd minute equalizer from Ryan Filipovic earnt the Melbourne Knights a 1-1 draw against bottom of the table St. Albans Saints at Churchill Reserve on Sunday afternoon.

Goran Jozeljic gave St. Albans the lead right on the hour mark but they were cruelly denied their first win of the season by Filipovic in the third minute of added time.

It was a very fiery derby game with some flying tackles and crushing challenges being thrown around by both teams with six yellow cards being shown in total.

St. Albans made four changes to the squad that lost last week 3-0 to Oakleigh Cannons bringing in goalkeeper Steven Pavlovic, Brian Chesson, Goran Jozeljic and Martin Hana for Antony Loncaric, Alan Paleka, Daniel Visevic and Stefan Piorkowski.

Luis Osoria, Stefan Jesensek and Marijan Cvitkovic were also promoted to the bench.

Three changes were made to the Melbourne Knights squad that crashed 2-1 to Heidelberg last round with Leo Shin, Josip Kozic and Yusuf Yusuf replaced in the starting eleven by Adam Zilic, Craig Sweeney and Mathieu Welmant. Joseph Franjic and Jacob Colosimo were also both promoted to the bench for the Knights. Melbourne Knights were looking to get out of the blocks quickly and Craig Sweeney hit an early strike from way outside the area high and wide.

St. Albans were also looking to get the early advantage and

really should have taken the lead just three minutes in when Jozeljic was played in one on one with Martin John but he hit his shot straight at the Knights 'keeper.

Fifteen minutes in and the Knights this time had a one on one opportunity when Josip Magdic played in Daniel Dragicevic but the youngster also hit his shot straight at the 'keeper Steven Pavlovic.

After that saw a period of five minutes where three yellow cards were shown. Knight's striker Jean-Charles Dubois was cautioned for a deliberate handball before Maks Cuze and Michael Grgic for the Saints both made it into the book for poor challenges.

Craig Sweeney attempted another strike from outside the area this time with it ending up on target only for Pavlovic to palm it over the bar.

Two minutes after that the Saints broke on a counter attack with the ball ending up out left Martin Hana who cut inside and curled in a shot which was headed in but it deflected off Zilic and out for a corner.

The rest of the half saw nothing much happen with Tomislav Milardovic given a yellow card and Dragicevic with a shot that was saved by Pavlovic. In the second half it took until seven minutes in for someone to create the first opportunity. Dubois dribbles past two defenders before taking a shot but it was deflected out for a corner.

The Frenchman had another chance three minutes later when Dragicevic flicked the ball back to him in the box



The Saints came marching in after Goran Jozeljic opened the scoring in their search for a first win of the season. Alas, it was not to be and will have to wait until after Easter for another crack at three points. Photo: STEVE STAREK

but he blasted his shot over the bar.

But right on the hour mark it was St. Albans who took the lead. Brian Chesson crossed in the ball from out right to Liam Cannell who chested the ball down to Goran Jozeljic who unleashed a cracking strike giving Martin John no chance. Jean-Charles Dubois looked the most likely person to score for the Knights but again his strike from outside the area went wide.

New Melbourne Knights manager Paul Magdic decided to bring on some fresh legs replacing Welmant with Leo Shin. Shin won a corner with his

first touch of the ball but the Knights still couldn't find the back of the net.

The Knights continued to push hard for a goal late in the match with the Saints becoming very nervous in defence.

Finally, and in the 93rd minute, the Saints defence cracked under pressure when they failed to deal with a low cross by Shin with the ball falling straight to the feet of Ryan Filipovic who controlled the ball blasting a shot into the back of the net from close range.

The goal denied St. Albans their first win of the 2011 Alanic Victorian Premier League season, the second time this

season they've conceded a late equalizer at home after they also conceded late in their 3-3 draw with Springvale last month.

The Saints are still cemented to the bottom of the table with just three points whilst the point for Knights moves them up to equal ninth with VTC on nine points.

With the Easter Break this weekend VPL action will resume for the Saints on May 6 when they travel to Kevin Bartlett Reserve to take on Richmond whilst Melbourne Knights will face Hume City at Broadmeadows Valley on May 8.



Melbourne Knights' Ryan Filipovic scores a last gasp equalizer to level the local derby and celebrates accordingly. Photo: STEVE STAREK



The tackles came thick and fast in the derby between St Albans Saints and Melbourne Knights yesterday, in a crunch game for both sides who have experienced their fair share of off-field woes of late.. Photo: STEVE STAREK

RICHMOND EAGLES	
	0
OAKLEIGH CANNONS	
	2
Match Details	

Richmond: S.Gal,
E.Karahan, R.Antoniadis,
M.Bissinger, D.Tsiaras,
T.Purcell (A.Viola
83'), M.Catalano
(M.Eterovic 46'),
C.O'Hare, A.Kovacic,
S.Wllson (E.Batsis 62'),
M.Ferrante.

Yellow Card: Antoniadis
67'

Red Cards: None

Oakleigh Cannons:
P.Zois, B.Obradovic,
A.Bran, C.Goodwin
(A.Cicak 68'),
D.Milovanovic, F.Lagana
(R.Diac 74'), N.Antic,
L.Walker, R.Tavsancioglu,
B.Damianos,
S.Hatzikostas (M.Becket
80').

Goals: Milovanovic 36'
(pen), Lagana 55'

Yellow Cards: Goodwin
60' Walker 77'

Red Cards: None

Cannons Remain On Course

By Mark Boric

Richmond hosted Oakleigh Cannons on a glorious sunny day at Kevin Bartlett Reserve on Sunday. The Eagles were keen to get back to winning ways after South Melbourne halted their recent form revival with a 1-0 win the previous Sunday.

The Cannons had won two games in succession, the latest a 3-0 triumph over St Albans. The Eagles fielded the same side which lost narrowly to South Melbourne, with Jason Hoffman still absent after an Olyroos training camp. Oakleigh made the one change, with Neven Antic coming in for James Downey.

There was little in the way of goalmouth action in the early stages, though Michael Ferrante drove a shot just wide from thirty-five yards after the ball fell to him when Chris O'Hare has his run ended by a defender after five minutes. Frank Lagana shot across the face of goal in the tenth minute, having cut in after getting the ball near the right corner.

Dimitri Tsiaras found an overlapping Erhan Karahan, but the cross was cleared as neither side was able to grasp the upper hand in an even contest. Ross Antoniadis cleared from near his line after Stephen Hatzikostas pulled the ball back from the right corner of the penalty area after Lagana had switched the ball to him.

A bouncing ball beat Karahan and saw Hatzikostas put through, before the second bounce then eluded him and Stjepan Gal was able to clean up the danger for Richmond.

The game remained even until ten minutes before the break when the Cannons struck. Hatzikostas got past Karahan on the right and cut into the penalty area where he was brought down by a tackle from Antun Kovacic. Referee Alejandro Azcurra pointed to the spot and Dane Milovanovic stepped up to convert and send Oakleigh ahead 1-0.

A late tackle on Ferrante gained Richmond a free-kick late in the half, which was played to an unmarked Kovacic but his shot was cleared to leave the Eagles trailing at the interval. The Richmond forward structure had failed to make an impression, and the when play resumed Mate Eterovic was brought on for Michael Catalano.

Billy Damianos hit a long range free-kick directly at Gal before the Eagles had a chance when a cross from Mitch Bissinger on the right fell to Eterovic at the far post who had his shot blocked.

In the fifty-fifth minute the Cannons extended their lead, with Lagana on hand to stab home a cross from the left from right in front of goal.

Richmond sacrificed defenders to get an extra player forward, opening the game up further. Being vulnerable on the counter, the Eagles conceded a penalty when a long ball put Hatzikostas through ahead of Antoniadis. Antoniadis fell into Hatzikostas to bring him down, earning a caution and sending Milovanovic back to the penalty spot. His second effort was weaker than the earlier conversion, allowing Gal to save by diving down to his left.



Richmond's Michael Ferrante tries to catch Oakleigh's Craig Goodwin.
Photo: ANITA MILAS

Neven Antic shot wide from outside the area after the ball was pulled back from the right. Following a foul on Karahan by Luke Walker a free-kick from Ferrante to the far post beat everyone and bounced just wide.

Substitute Melvin Becket had a volley at the far post

blocked, sparking a scramble which saw the Cannons have a further two shots blocked before another one flew over the crossbar.

Full-time arrived with the Cannons comfortable and deserving 2-0 winners, keeping them in the mix at the top of the AVPL table. They

will next play after the Easter break on Monday May 2nd when they host Hume City. Richmond will be in action on the first Friday after the break, when they visit Knights Stadium to face the Melbourne Knights.




Kiss my grass! Oakleigh's Rama Tavsancioglu and Richmond's Antun Kovacic go to ground.
Photo: ANITA MILAS



Oakleigh's Frankie Lagana shows his prowess in the goalmouth to pounce and stab home the second goal for the afternoon. Photo: ANITA MILAS

HUME CITY



5

SOUTH MELBOURNE



0

Match Details

Hume City: 1. Lupce ACEVSKI, 2. Adam NAKIC, 3. Fabio DILIZIA (17. Mark MCGOUGH, 83'), 6. Serdar PIR, 10. Richie CARDOZO, 11. Andrew VLAHOS (25. Atilla OFLI, 73'), 15. Zoran PETREVSKI, 20. Michael BOSEVSKI, 21. Dusko DELIC (4. Mark PISTINIZI, 69'), 22. Phillip RICCOBENE, 23. Steven WEIR. Unused Subs: 25. Atilla OFLI, 25. Atilla OFLI, 30. Ali CATAK.

Goal Scorers: 10. Richard CARDOZO, 16' & 85', 3. Fabio DILIZIA, 39', 23. Steven WEIR, 48' & 65'.

Yellow Cards: 21. Dusko DELIC, 12', 23. Steven WEIR, 42', 4. Mark PISTINIZI, 79'.

South Melbourne: 3. Rhodri PAYNE, 5. Daniel VASILEVSKI, 6. Steven TOPALOVIC, 8. Carl RECCHIA (16. Trent WATERSON, 45'), 10. Kliment TASESKI, 11. Jesse KRNCEVIC, 13. Ljubo MILICEVIC, 15. Fernando DE MORAES (33. Bobby RUSSELL, 66'), 18. Marinos GASPARI, 21. Zaim ZENELLI, 25. Kyle JURYEFF (24. Nicholas JACOBS, 66'). Unused Subs: 1. Abdelhadi DEROUNE, 19. Leigh MINOPOULOS.

Goal Scorers: Nil

Yellow Cards: 3. Rhodri PAYNE, 45'.

Red Cards: 11. Jesse KRNCEVIC, 24', 13. Ljubo MILICEVIC, 38'.

High Fives For Hume In Fiery Clash

By Vanessa Lougoon

Injury plagued and fourth placed Hume City claimed a 5-0 victory over second placed South Melbourne in the Anzac Day Cup at Broadmeadows Valley Park.

The match was played in perfect conditions with the first half providing a fiery encounter, which saw two red and three yellow cards.

The match commenced in a relaxed free flowing manner, although Hume appeared to be the more aggressive of the two.

Hume's Andrew Vlahos set up first scoring opportunity within minutes from kick off, with a strike from the left wing, but Hume were lacking in numbers to finish it off.

South's first scoring opportunity came in the sixth minute, with a feed to Jesse Krncevic from the left wing, but was blocked by Hume Goal Keeper Lupce Acevski.

With the match becoming more aggressive, it was at the 12th minute where we saw the first yellow card given to Hume City's Dusko Delic. The resulting free kick to South's Kliment Taseski was sent towards goal but veered left, missing South's awaiting attack.

Hume moved the ball straight into their attack. After a failed corner ball conversion, Richard Cardozo worked hard to score Hume's first goal, kicking straight over South Melbourne's Goal Keeper, Zaim Zenelli's head from out front in the 16th minute.

The match started to heat up with the remainder of the half progressing into a fiery encounter.

It wasn't too long before undisciplined emotions got the better of South Melbourne's Jesse Krncevich, who received a red card in the 24th minute for an incident behind play involving Hume's Adam Nakic, who was subsequently sent off field for treatment.

The crowd were getting involved. In the 32nd minute a spectacular clash between Hume's Richard Cardozo and South's Kliment Taseski on the boundary line in front of the stands caused a crowd outcry, but the umpire saw the incident for what it was awarding the free to South.

We were seeing red again with South Melbourne's Ljubo Milicevic sent off in the 38th minute for a high tackle. The free kick

from the left wing was sent straight into the goal square where Fabio Dilizia scrambled to score Hume's second in the 39th minute.

However, the goal square hustle left South Melbourne's Carl Recchia hurt, leaving the field for treatment for an ankle injury and eventually replaced by Trent Waterson at half time.

The fiery encounter continued with Hume's Steven Weir and South's Rhodri Payne receiving yellow cards before half time.

It was a completely different mood in the second half, where South Melbourne appeared to be deflated.

It took minutes only before we witnessed the next goal from Hume's Steven Weir from out front.

Weir had his chance again in the 51st minute with a shot from out right but angled it too much and just missing to the left of goal.

Possession was fairly even, however, Hume appeared sharper and were more effective with the ball, having the numbers in the right places and were getting on top.

South were missing their targets out of defence, allowing easy turn-overs.

In the 61st minute, Hume's Phillip Riccobene ploughed one into goal, but was caught by Zenelli.

South Melbourne had their opportunities with Fernando De Moraes taking a free kick from left of goal but was easily caught by Acevski.

Steven Weir was on a roll with his second goal scored from the left wing in the 65th minute.

Hume's attack did not stop there, in the 70th minute; Mark Pistinzi smacked one from straight out front, but was smothered by Zenelli.

But Zenelli couldn't stop Cardozo who scored his second from straight out in front, stretching Hume City's lead to 5-0 in the dying minutes.

South did lift their intensity and create scoring opportunities late in the match, but they could not penetrate Hume's defence. Their opponents simply out played them.

Following the Easter break, South Melbourne take on Dandenong Thunder in a highly anticipated match at John Cain Memorial Park while Hume City take on Oakleigh Cannons at Jack Edwards Reserve.



Jesse Krncevic gets his marching orders.




Richard Cardozo rocks it with a brace.



Fabio Dilizia buries his chance and lets out a roar of approval.Photo: DANIEL FLIS



Hume's Steven Weir puts the icing on the cake in a thumping afternoon. Photos: DANIEL FLIS



Alanic VPL Standings

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Dandenong Thunder	10	7	2	1	24	8	23
Oakleigh Cannons	10	7	1	2	21	11	22
South Melbourne	10	6	2	2	21	18	20
Hume City	10	5	3	2	18	11	18
Northcote City	09	4	2	3	18	14	14
Bentleigh Greens	10	4	2	4	15	15	14
Heidelberg Utd	09	4	3	2	12	11	12
Richmond	10	3	1	6	11	20	10
Melbourne Knights	10	2	3	5	14	15	9
VTC Football	08	3	0	5	10	19	9
Springvale White Eagles	10	1	5	4	15	23	8
Green Gully Cavaliers	09	2	1	6	11	13	7
St Albans Saints	09	0	3	6	9	21	3

Alanic VPL Round 10

Wed 27 Apr 8:30PM

Northcote City v N.T.C

Fri 29 Apr 8:15PM

Bentleigh Greens v Northcote City

Kingston Heath

Fri 29 Apr 8:30PM

Springvale White Eagles v Green Gully Cavaliers

White Eagles Stadium

Sun 1 May 3:00PM

St Albans Saints v Heidelberg Utd

Churchill Reserve

Sun 1 May 3:00PM

Bentleigh Greens 2

Hume City 5

Sun 1 May 3:00PM

Oakleigh Cannons 2

St Albans Saints 2

Mon 2 May 8:30PM

Oakleigh Cannons v Hume City

Jack Edwards Reserve

Under 21s

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Green Gully Cavaliers	09	6	2	1	24	11	20
Melbourne Knights	10	5	3	2	22	9	18
Hume City	09	5	2	2	26	13	17
South Melbourne	08	5	2	1	24	14	17
Oakleigh Cannons	10	5	2	3	27	18	17
Dandenong Thunder	10	4	2	4	24	20	14
Northcote City	09	4	1	4	18	17	13
Heidelberg Utd	08	4	1	3	14	15	13
Springvale White Eagles	10	4	0	6	21	34	12
Richmond	10	3	0	7	16	31	9
Bentleigh Greens	10	2	2	6	16	30	8
VTC Football	08	2	0	6	15	27	6
St Albans Saints	09	1	3	5	17	25	3



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